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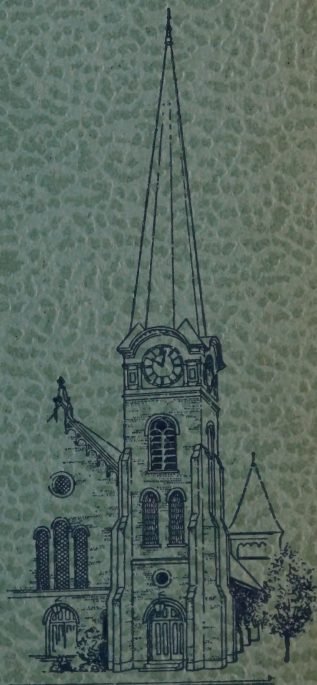
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THE
HUNTINGDON
PRESBYTERIAN
CONGREGATION

AN
HISTORICAL
SKETCH
1789 - 1939



REYNOLDS HISTORICAL
GENEALOGY COLLECTION





PRESENT HUNTINGDON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DEDICATED, SEPTEMBER 10, 1873

AN HISTORICAL SKETCH

OF THE

HUNTINGDON PRESBYTERIAN

CONGREGATION



IN CONNECTION WITH THE CELEBRATION OF

THE SESQUI-CENTENNIAL OF ITS FOUNDING

1789—NOVEMBER—1939



Compiled and Written by

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FOREWORD

By DR. ROBERT E. SPEER, D. D., L. L. D.

Former Secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions of the
Presbyterian Church in the United States of America.
Moderator of the General Assembly in 1927.

Many years ago at Northfield, Mass. Dr. Henry Clay Trumbull made a Fourth of July address on the subject "Our Duty to Make the Past a Success." He held that the past is not something completed and closed but is open and contingent, depending upon us who have inherited it and who are responsible for determining its true character. Whether our fathers and their fathers who founded this church and this community did well or ill is to be decided by us; by the kind of men and women we are, and by the way in which we use our inheritance from the Past and do our duty in the Present.

This Sesqui-Centennial, accordingly, is a summons to us so to act and live to-day that those who went before us and who are now looking down upon us may say, "We did well in laying foundations for such builders as these. May the blessing with which God blessed us be multiplied unto them and their children."

ROBERT E. SPEER.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

Witherspoon Building, Phila., Penna.
Rev. Lewis S. Mudge, D. D., LL. D.
Stated Clerk-Emeritus.

To the Officers and Members of the
First Presbyterian Church at
Huntingdon, Pennsylvania.

Dear Brethren:

7116597

It is a privilege to respond to the request of the Chairman of your Historical Publication Committee and join with others in messages of congratulation and good-will as you celebrate the Sesqui-centennial Anniversary of the founding of your church.

A century and a half is a long time in our country. When you assemble in October next in recognition of this notable event our General Assembly will have passed the One Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary of its first meeting. Your church life began, according to the records at Church headquarters, on July 6th, 1789. This life has therefore paralleled almost exactly the whole of the life of our supreme judicatory. Fithian, who visited the site of Huntingdon in 1775, fourteen years before your church had its formal origin, writes as follows:

"I had almost forgot to tell the Person who shall read these Papers a couple of hundred Years hence that there is now standing in a Garden in Huntingdon a tall Stone Column, or Pillar, nearly square, which has given to the Town & to the Valley the Name of 'Standing Stone Valley.' The Column is seven feet above the Ground!" (Fithian's Journal 1775-1776, p. 116.)

Huntingdon was originally known as "Standing Stone" and all through these years your church has stood as a stone of witness to the great fundamental teachings of Calvinism derived from the Scriptures and relating to what we should believe concerning God and what duty God requires of man.

May the future years of your church be as full of devoted service and fruitful endeavor as have the many years now past, and may the notable anniversary which you are now celebrating be a source of spiritual stimulus and reconsecration to this great end.

Fraternally yours,

LEWIS S. MUDGE

Stated Clerk Emeritus

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,
OF THE PRESBYTERIAL CHURCH, U. S. A.
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
Presbyterian Historical Society
Rev. Thomas Clinton Pears, Jr., L. H. D., Manager,
Witherspoon Building, Phila., Pa.

Mr. Charles L. Reed, Chairman,
Historical Committee,
Huntingdon Presbyterian Congregation,
Huntingdon, Penna.

Dear Mr. Reed:

The Department of History of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, desires to express through you to the members of the Huntingdon Presbyterian Church its best wishes upon the occasion of your Sesqui-centennial. Yours is an ancient and historic church and has played a worthy role in our great Commonwealth. You have been true to the faith delivered to the saints and have sent forth into the world a continuous stream of men and women who have served the Church and the State in their day and generation. We are proud of your record and feel confident that we can look forward to an even wider and more distinguished service in the future than in the past. May the Great Head of the Church guide you in all your purposes and performances.

Cordially yours,
THOS. C. PEARS, Jr.
Manager

SYNOD OF PENNSYLVANIA
THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
OFFICE OF THE STATED CLERK

The Huntingdon Presbyterian Church,
Huntingdon, Pennsylvania.

Dear Brethren:—

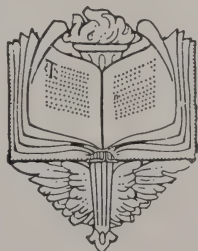
The Synod of Pennsylvania joins in hearty felicitations to the Huntingdon Presbyterian Church on the occasion of its Sesqui-centennial.

With you of the congregation, we all take pride in your notable achievements of the past one hundred and fifty years. We cannot be oblivious to the fact that your history is coterminous with that of our republic, whose development from the inauguration of its first President to its present power, your church has experienced. Synod and our whole denomination, in fact the whole Christian world, have been enriched by the contributions of the Huntingdon Church, both in outstanding leadership and in the less spectacular but equally vital contribution of the many loyal and devoted Christians. It is a glorious privilege to share in such a heritage.

It is also a clear summons for the future. Such a past offers the foundation for an ever more glorious tomorrow. From this celebration, may the Huntingdon Church gather determination and enthusiasm to make the future worthy of those whom you honor as the builders of the past. In this, and all good prayers, the Synod joins you on this auspicious occasion.

Cordially Yours,

GLENN M. SHAFER, Stated Clerk.



THE PRESBYTERY OF HUNTINGDON

To the Officers and Members
The Presbyterian Church of Huntingdon
Huntingdon, Pennsylvania

Lewistown, Pa.

Dear Friends:—

In behalf of The Presbytery of Huntingdon, I take pleasure in greeting you and offering hearty congratulations and good wishes on the occasion of the One Hundred Fiftieth Anniversary of your organization.

The “fathers and brethren” of old Carlisle Presbytery were surely well advised when they gave your fair name to the new Presbytery formed, by action of General Assembly, in 1795. The Presbytery is indebted to you not only for the inspiration of a great name but also for the leadership, counsel and generous support of men and women of mark.

We rejoice in the accomplishments which have been yours, under God’s blessing, and we are grateful and proud because of all you have been able to do for the advancement of God’s kingdom in your own community and within the bounds and through the witness of the Presbytery of Huntingdon.

On this happy and most significant occasion may we all remember that “It is a poor tribute to our ancestors to camp where they fell”. May the Congregation and the Presbytery bearing the name of Huntingdon go on from strength to strength, ever gaining new victories for Jesus Christ our Lord and Leader.

With happy and sincere felicitations and the prayer for God’s richest blessings upon you all, I am

Faithfully yours,

HENRY A. RIDDLE

Moderator, Presbytery of Huntingdon.

CENTENNIAL HYMN, 1795-1895

Written by

Rev. D. K. Freeman, D. D.

Our father's God, to thee we raise
The anthem of our grateful praise.
Inspire each thought, rejoice each heart,
The spirit of thy grace impart.

Within these hallowed walls we meet,
Thy goodness through the past repeat.
Rich mercies crown the era done,
O Savior: bless the opening one.

The century fell "from out thy hand"
The days and hours "like grains of sand,"
The church our fathers planted then
We consecrate to thee again.

The people thou hast led, through years
Of joys and sorrows, hopes and fears,
Lead on: bring all within thy fold,
Let the new age surpass the old.

Excerpts from a sermon preached on
Sunday morning, November 6, 1932, his twenty-fifth anniversary as pastor.
by Rev. R. P. Daubenspeck, D. D.

If I were to select a text for a message on this Anniversary occasion it would be Psalm, 133-I, Behold how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.

For whatever success has come to this church during these years, is due to the fact that we have dwelt together in unity. Peace and harmony have prevailed. God will not; does not and cannot bless a divided people. We must, of course, guard against living in the past. But the past has its lessons for us. Its failures should humble us; its mistakes should put us on our guard; and its successes should be for our encouragement. To the fact that there have been mistakes and failures, we are not blind. But the fact that there have been some successes, and that on the whole, there has been a forward movement in the life of the church should be for our encouragement.

Now, twenty-five years is a long time—a quarter of a century. Mine is now the second longest pastorate in the history of this Church. Rev. John Johnston came in 1789 and was released in 1823, thirty-three years. Rev. John Peebles served two months less than twenty-five years; Dr. Freeman served from November, 1882 until he died in June, 1907, about five months short of the twenty-five years.

During these twenty-five years 850 persons have been received into the membership of this church. Of these 465 came on profession of faith while 385 came with letters of dismissal from other churches. Of these 385, received by certificate, 126 came from churches of other denominations. There have been 259 infant baptisms and 113 adult baptisms. I have officiated at 241 funerals, of which 109 were not members of this church. I have officiated at 365 weddings. Of the 304 on the roll of the church twenty-five years ago 142 remain today. The present membership of the church is 632, as compared with 304, twenty-five years ago.

The current expenses have ranged from \$4,965 to \$31,802 per year a total of \$215,396. The benevolences have ranged from \$1780 to \$23,922 per year, a total of \$288,625. A grand total for all purposes of \$504,625. Of this amount we spent 43% for ourselves, and 57% for others. During these twenty-five years the J. C. Blair Memorial Hospital has been built. From the beginning of this project I have served as a Trustee.

But this morning, looking back as we are, we cannot but think of the many changes these years have wrought in the Congregation. The elders, who signed my call were J. R. Simpson, George M. McAlevy, W. B. McCarthy, R. A. Orbison, James S. Woods, and C. E. Hooper. On April 11, 1909, I ordained and installed as elders A. J. McCahan, J. Frank Schock, Alexander Elliott and S. C. Postlethwaite. Of these Mr. Postlethwaite survives.

May I vision to you the congregation as I saw it twenty-five years ago. Just these front pews. To my right the choir, Mr. Frank Cremer at the organ; Tom Gipple, Mr. Hooper, and Mrs. Rex, members of the Choir. In these front pews on the right of the auditorium, Mrs. Frank Cremer, Miss Lizzie Taylor and her mother, Miss Julia Dorris, Mr. J. Murray Africa, Mr. & Mrs. J. R. Simpson, Mr. A. J. McCahan, Mr. & Mrs. B. F. Isenberg; In this centre block, just here in front Mrs. Margaret Cremer, Mrs. Sarah Brown, Miss Mary Speer, Miss Mary Miller, Maj. Geo. W. Garretson, Mrs. Frances Jackson, Mrs. Maguire and Alice, Mr. Charles G. Brown, Mr. & Mrs. Wm. H. Woods, Mrs. Mary Green, Mrs. Margaret Armitage, Mr. R. A. Orbison and Miss Mary, Mrs. M. F. Fisher.

And over here to the left of the auditorium, Mr. Frank Willoughby, Mr. Alexander Elliott, Mr. J. E. Smucker, Mr. J. F. Schock, Mrs. Bollinger, Mrs. Williamson, Mrs. Bailey, Mrs. Anderson, Miss Jemima Whittaker, Mr. & Mrs. W. B. Fetterhooft, Mr. Patton, Mr. Thomas, the three McCarthy families, James, Rufus and William and their mother Mrs. Eleanor McCarthy; and a hundred others, all over the Auditorium, sleeping on the hill today, who, in their day, were pillars in this church.

The congregation has come as near the ideal as any congregation I have ever known. I have appreciated the assistance and loyalty of the Choir. No pastor ever had a better or more faithful choir. Some of the members of this present choir have been rendering faithful services through all these years. My hope is that they may continue to do so, as long as I am the pastor of this church.

But now as to the future. I have appreciated all the kind things which have been said. Among the nicest was the action of the congregation of the First Methodist Episcopal church in the resolution adopted at their service last Sunday morning. I have also appreciated the good wishes for the years to come, and, from the many expressed hopes that there might be many years. But I know and you know that there cannot be many. Every minister faces the fact that he will reach an age when he will no longer be wanted. That time must come to me as it comes to every minister. Huntingdon is home to Mrs. Daubenspeck and myself. We have lived longer in this community than any community in which we have ever lived. Our friends are here. So, we are beginning to prepare for that fast approaching time. We have bought, rather are buying a little home in Huntingdon, with the hope that when that time comes and while I still enjoy the goodwill of this Congregation and the people of the community, I may be in position to step aside and live among you, not any longer as your pastor, but as your friend and neighbor. Just a few more years and that time will have come. But there is no reason why these last few years should not be the very best.

We are very much better equipped for service than we were twenty-five years ago.

We have an excellent Board of Trustees.

We have a faithful, loyal Session.

We have a modern Sunday School room and a Sunday School manned by efficient officers and teachers.

We have the best Choir of any town of its size in Pennsylvania.

We have a beautiful and commodious auditorium.

We have an organ and an organist of whom we are proud.

We have the outstanding Missionary organizations of the Presbytery.

We have a loyal membership.

We enjoy the respect and the sympathy of the other churches of the community.

We have no church debt, for which we have reason to be thankful and something unusual in the history of this church.

Instead of paying interest we have the income of a \$15,000 endowment.

We have a membership twice as large as it was twenty-five years ago.

We have a congregation in which peace and harmony prevail.

There is every reason why the work of this congregation should go forward.

R. P. Daubenspeck.

THE HUNTINGDON PRESBYTERIAN CONGREGATION

Rev. John Thompson Peters,
Minister.

The Sesqui-centennial celebration of our church is a most significant event for all of us. This is true because we can see for ourselves as we now stand on this ladder of years, that there is a challenge presented to us from two directions—the past and the future.

Of the glorious events of the yester years we shall all be made aware as we peruse this volume. Those who have gone on before us have done a noble work. Great sons and daughters have gone forth from this sanctuary. It will not be easy to meet this challenge which issues from the past.

Perhaps of even greater significance is the challenge of the future. For as these words are being written there is much unrest and confusion in the world in which we live. This confusion has come into the minds of men who are groping for light in darkness. False creeds and hideous half-truths are rearing their ugly heads to beckon men in their own directions. Many are following there after to their own destruction and that of their children. Not for a century has Christianity been denied and challenged on so many fronts as is true to-day.

In such a time we dare not handle the Gospel Message carelessly and with indifference. We must hold high the "light of the world" above the heads of all men in all nations that they see the real "Prince of Life" and be led to worship at his feet. We Christians possess the most marvelous truth in all the world and we must live believing that with all our hearts, souls and minds.

To perform its tasks in the days which are ahead the Church must be powerful and true to its basic truths. This will require penitence on our part and real devotion to our Lord Jesus Christ, both in outward form and in our hearts. We must leave no doubt in the minds of the world that God is a reality for us. Hence He shall become a reality for others and His Kingdom shall come. The old adage is true for our age—"We must preach as dying men to dying people. Then and then only will His will be done on earth as it is in Heaven."

"God of our life, through all the encircling years, we trust in thee"

JOHN THOMPSON PETERS

Pastor

PREFACE

In compiling a historical sketch of the Huntingdon Presbyterian Congregation, the Committee, having the matter in charge were handicapped somewhat, due to the fact that all the earlier records of the church were lost in a fire which destroyed the home of Jacob Miller, Secretary of the Board of Trustees and member of the Session, which occurred in 1825.

In addition to this serious loss, some of the later records have been lost or mislaid and are not available. However, by consulting all the available church records and by reference to a number of books, papers, sermons and addresses and by consultation with members of the Congregation who have personal knowledge of some of the earlier experiences of the Church the following pages were made possible. Some of the sources of information are Gibson's History of Huntingdon Presbytery, published in 1871; J. Simpson Africa's History of Huntingdon and Blair Counties, published in 1883; the History of Huntingdon Presbytery, published by order of Presbytery in 1895, the Centennial year; Sherman Day's Historical Collections of Pennsylvania; I. D. Rupp's History of Huntingdon and other Pennsylvania Counties, published in 1847; P. M. Lytle's History of Huntingdon County; Jones's History of the Juniata Valley; sermons and addresses in printed form by Rev. R. P. Daubenspeck, former pastor of the Congregation for thirty years, 1907 to 1937; Historical addresses prepared by Rev. J. C. Barr, former pastor of the Alexandria, Pa., Presbyterian Church; and the Historical Booklet issued in 1937 by the Alexandria Presbyterian Church.

Due to the fact that many statements from these sources are conflicting; that many of the official records are missing; and further that failure of families in the Congregation to keep family records make it difficult to properly evaluate the various happenings during these one hundred and fifty years since the organization of the Congregation. Thus, it may be that matters of relatively small importance have been given too much prominence, while other events have not been given proper recognition.

For any errors or shortcomings the Committee may be guilty of, they plead their intention to treat all subject matter consistently and with its relative value and importance and ask that it be considered in this light. The Committee also asks the reader to keep in mind that this Sketch is not to be considered as a complete, detailed History, but a collection of interesting events gathered from many sources, with important events and dates verified as far as it was possible to do so.

As to the fitness of the Committee for this work, we might say that all the members have close historical ties with the Congregation, some from the very date of its organization. Jack M. Willoughby is descended directly from Thomas King, who was the holder of Pew 14 in the first church building, erected around 1828 to 1830. C. McKnight Africa, also traces his family to early members of the Congregation and is a grandson of J. Simpson Africa, Treasurer of the Congregation for many years. William S. McCahan's family

have been connected with the Congregation for a number of generations, and his father A. J. McCahan was an elder from 1909 until his death on February 26, 1923. The writer has been a member of the church since 1885, and his son, Charles L. Reed, Jr., is the seventh generation of his family, descended from Benjamin Elliott, to hold membership in this church.

With all these considerations in mind the Committee commends the results to the reader with the hope of sympathetic criticism.

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

CHARLES L. REED, Chairman
JACK M. WILLOUGHBY

C. McKNIGHT AFRICA
WM. S. McCAHAN

SEAL OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



SYMBOLISM OF SEAL

The Open Bible, the motto "The Word of God", and the wreath of branches of palm, all as represented upon the seal of the Westminister Assembly, suggest not only our historic relation to that body, but our loyalty to the Bible and the Confession of Faith.

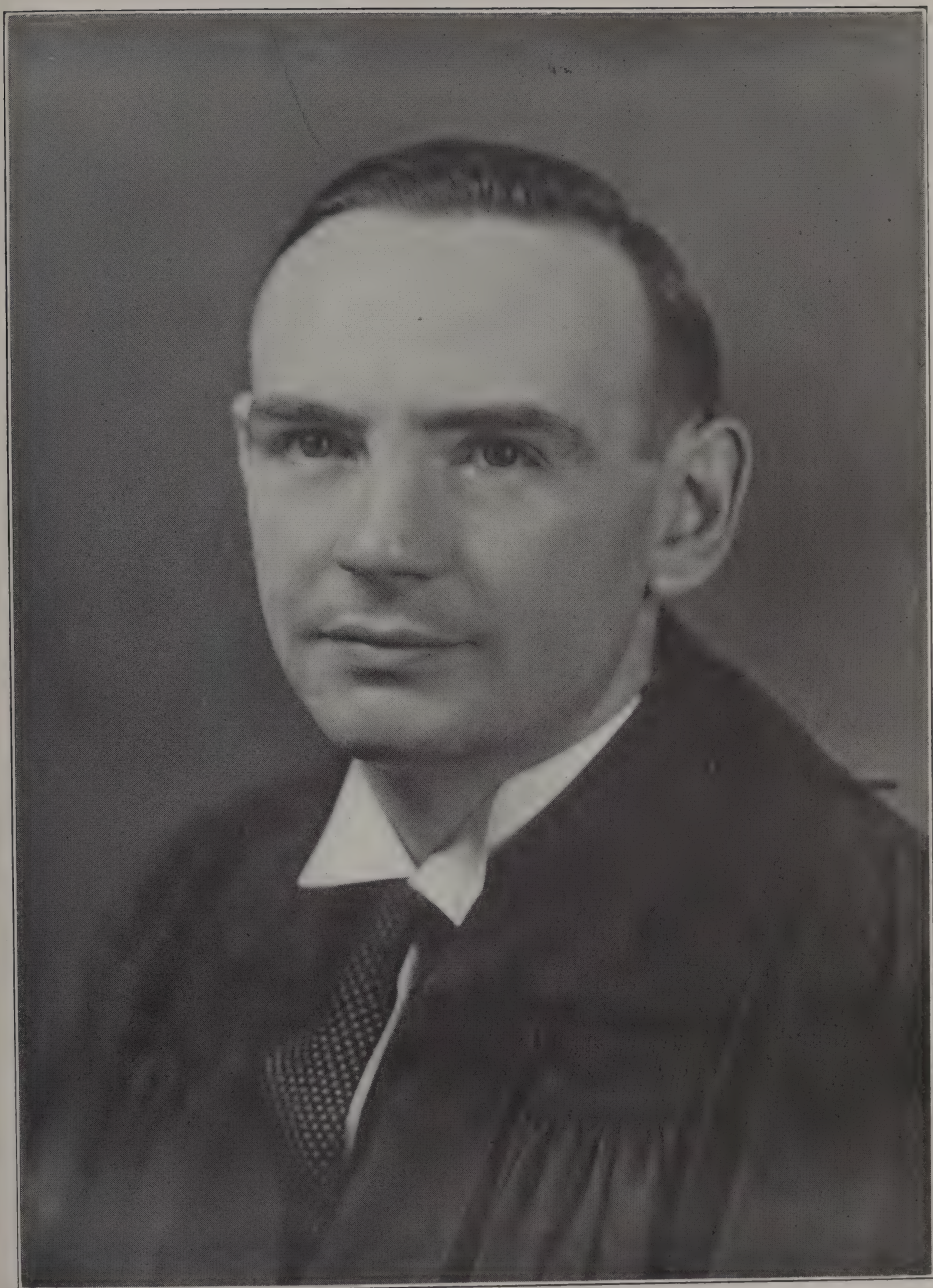
The figure of the serpent suspended from a cruciform pole uplifted within a wilderness, as represented upon the seal of the Trustees of the Assembly for nearly a century, happily expresses the historic mission of our Church to lift Christ up in the wilderness of the New World, and its persistently Home Missionary character. It also witnesses our essential unity with the Presbyterian Church in the United States,—whose heirloom it is as well as ours—and our common history extending over a period of a century and a half.

The burning bush, the emblem found not only upon the seal of the Kirk of Scotland, but also upon the seals of several other of the Reformed Churches, represents our close relation with them, and symbolizes the Martyr Church of the Reformation, in accordance with the text Exodus 3:2, "Behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed." It also suggests the divine fire which "while it seems to burn it up really keeps it aglow with life, and makes it a Light of Truth from age to age."

The branches of palm express the idea of coronation, triumph and victory. The olive, in the universal symbolism of the Church represents peace and the Gospel of Peace; but further, on account of the fact that it appears in one of the claws of the eagle displayed upon the Great Seal of the United States, it indicates the national character of our Church, and its traditional loyalty.

The oak is the emblem of strength, and combined with the olive is found upon the seal and coat of arms of the city and church of Geneva, thus indicating our historic connection with the Church of Calvin.

The radiating rays of light filling the vacant spaces of the field, suggest the Foreign Missionary Enterprise of our Church and its world-wide vision, in accordance with the text, Isaiah 49:6, "I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth."



REV. JOHN THOMPSON PETERS
ORDAINED PASTOR, MAY 12, 1938

CHAPTER I

Historical Sketch of the Huntingdon Presbyterian Congregation 1789—1939.

In attempting to write even a brief historical sketch of the Huntingdon Presbyterian Congregation, one must go far afield for information, and far back in the past to find its earliest roots. In fact, its beginnings reach across the seas to faraway Scotland, England and the north of Ireland. In earliest times of which we have knowledge, the territory now covered by the bounds of Huntingdon Presbytery was under the Presbytery of Donegal, the centre of which was around Donegal, east of Harrisburg and which, no doubt received its name from the County in Ireland from which many of the settlers had originally come. This was preeminently missionary ground then and for years that followed.

Many of these settlers had located in the Cumberland Valley, but, after tarrying awhile, forged across the mountains into what was first Bedford County and after 1787 Huntingdon County, all of which was a veritable wilderness. In ecclesiastical circles in Pennsylvania, the unrest and turmoil existent in Europe was reflected, making progress difficult. Remote spots in the wilderness suffered from the neglect of the church in more settled parts and rebelled.

In the year 1763, at the meeting of the United Synod of New York and Philadelphia a request from "the Corporation for the relief of poor and distressed Presbyterian ministers" was presented, to the effect "that some missionaries be sent to preach to the distressed frontier inhabitants and to report their distresses and to let us know where congregations are aforming, and what is necessary to be done to spread the gospel among them, and that they inform us what opportunities there may be of preaching the Gospel to the Indian nations in the neighborhood".

Nothing seems to have been done in this direction by the Synod until three years afterward, when Revs. Charles Beatty and George Duffield were sent upon a mission to the inhabitants on the Juniata and in the regions beyond. In the summer of 1766 they preached to the congregations in Tuscarora, at Cedar Spring, at Aughwick, Bedford and other points. At this period, Standing Stone, then only an Indian village, had at least one white settler, Hugh Crawford whose records claim that he had an improved piece of land at the mouth of what is now Crooked Creek, opposite the place where Standing Stone Creek enters the Juniata River, where he located in 1753. By Indian trail and obscure forest path these devoted men pursued their way, hunting up the scattered settlers in the vast wilderness. The next year they reported, "that they found on the frontiers numbers of people earnestly desirous of forming themselves into congregations, and declaring their willingness to exert to their utmost in order to have the Gospel among them."

No permanent relief coming to the congregations then existing, the members of the churches at Cedar Spring and Tuscarora petitioned to be detached from Donegal Presbytery, but the petition was denied. This condition existed until the year 1786, when the Presbytery of Carlisle was formed

and all this region was included in this new Presbytery. In the meantime the Revolutionary War intervened and its demoralizing effect was felt all through this region, interrupting progress in establishing churches.

By the year 1775, the Indian Village of Standing Stone, had become a village of six or eight houses. The names of these first settlers were David McMurtrie, Benjamin Elliott, Abraham Haynes, Frank Cluggage, Mr. Ashbrough and Ludwig Sells.

In the spring of 1775, Rev. Philip Fithian, from Greenwich, New Jersey was commissioned by the Presbytery of Carlisle, meeting at a place near Mercersburg, Franklin County, to visit Central Pennsylvania as a supply to the scattered Presbyterian Churches. In his diary, under date of August 21st., 1775 he relates his experiences while visiting Standing Stone, and the Warm Springs, located about five miles north of the village. This Spring was said to have medicinal qualities, and, even at that time was visited by many people seeking relief from various ailments. In later years this spring was capitalized and developed into a fashionable watering place. A hotel was built, and it was quite the proper thing to take the baths. The walled foundation of these bath houses can still be seen around the spring, though all other buildings have vanished.

This early missionary visited Standing Stone on this trip, but there is no record of his having preached here. On his way back from this trip he stopped at Fort Shirley, and on August 27th, 1775 preached in Mr. Fowley's barn, on a rainy, stormy Sunday, when fifty or more persons were present.

So many of these early Scotch and Scotch-Irish Presbyterians had passed farther up the Juniata to points near which are now located Alexandria and Petersburg on Shavers Creek, that the demand for religious services became so pressing a question as to need solving. As early as 1786, this demand became so insistent that a subscription list for the erection of a house of worship was circulated and contains the names of fifty-eight heads of families who subscribed to the enterprise, evidencing the strength of the congregation at this early date.

This Church, the Hartslog Presbyterian Church, now the Alexandria Presbyterian Church, according to the records "is the oldest church in the Upper Juniata Valley west of Jack's Narrows". It is the Mother Church of the congregations later established at Huntingdon, Shavers Creek, Petersburg, Lower Spruce Creek and Sinking Valley.

This Log Worship House stood upon the hill, one mile north of the present site of Alexandria, it was a primitive building, without floor, and with split logs for benches for the worshipers, and without any heating facilities. The first regular minister of this church was the Rev. John Johnston who was installed pastor on November 26, 1787. He was born in the city of Belfast, Ireland, in 1750 and came to this country in 1784. He became a member of the Presbytery of Philadelphia, later a member of the Presbytery of Carlisle out of which Huntingdon Presbytery was formed in 1795. He was installed as the minister of the Hartslog and Shavers Creek Congregations. He is described in the records as a "man of mind, erudition, and a very substantial preacher". He continued to be minister of the church until near the time of his death in 1823, being survived by a family of six children. He was the first commissioner of Huntingdon Presbytery to the General Assembly, and was the second Stated Clerk of the Presbytery.



OLD HARTSLOG MEETING HOUSE, 1802
 LOCATED ONE MILE NORTH OF ALEXANDRIA
 REPRODUCED FROM SPECIFICATIONS DRAWN BY
 MISS SUE PHILLIPS

It is hard to believe, when driving through this section today, when a trip from the site of the old Hartslog Church to Shavers Creek takes but a few minutes of time, that in the days of Rev. Mr. Johnston, it was a trip of many hours by devious woodland paths on horseback. Depredations and massacres by Indians are recorded as having taken place as late as 1781, and the woods were not without danger as well as difficulties.

In passing from one to the other of his charges, Mr. Johnston had to ford a branch of the Juniata. Tradition tells that he frequently announced that "Preaching service will be held in this house on next Lord's Day, Providence permitting and the Creek don't rise".

Previous to the installation of Rev. John Johnston as pastor of the Hartslog and Shavers Creek congregations in 1787, travelling missionaries, sent out by the Presbytery of Carlisle, no doubt held services at Standing Stone and other points, as the villages continued to increase in population and importance. By the year 1789, the village of Standing Stone had grown to the extent that Presbyterians felt the necessity of establishing a permanent congregation and of securing a regular minister.

As a result the Huntingdon Presbyterian Congregation was organized, July, 6th., 1789, and a subscription paper was circulated during that summer to secure members and contributions for the support of a regular pastor. The

following heads of families subscribed to this fund the amounts set opposite their several names,—

	L	s.	p.		L	s.	p.
Benjamin Elliott	1	10	0	Alexander Dean	1	5	0
Andrew Henderson	1	10	0	John Fee		15	0
James Hamilton	1	10	0	John Patton	1	5	0
Samuel Riddle	1	10	0	Caleb Armitage		18	0
Charles Smith	1	10	0	John Reed		15	0
Robert Galbraith	1	10	0	Alex. McConnell	1	5	0
Archibald Ramsey	1	0	0	Patrick Leonard	1	0	0
John Dean	1	5	0	John Simpson		15	0
Michael Humbert		10	0	John Light		5	0
Peter Stevens		10	0	John George		7	6
George Martin		10	0	Robert Simpson		10	0
John Griffith		10	0	James Elliott		10	0
Henry McCarthy		15	0	Robert Patton		7	6
Isaac Armitage		10	0	George Guthrie		10	0
Peter Swoope		7	6	John Weston		15	0
Moses Donaldson	1	0	0	George Buchanan		10	0
Jesse Head		10	0	John Ashbaugh		7	6
Matthew Simpson	1	0	0	Hugh Tanner		15	0
William Simpson		10	0	John Fee, Jr.		7	6
Samuel McKenny		15	0	John Shaver		7	6
William Moore		15	0	John Covanhoven		7	6
Abraham Haines		10	0	David McMurtrie	1	0	0
Jacob Laird		17	6	William McIlvain		10	0
Abraham Dearduff		7	6	John Cadwallader	1	10	0
Joshua Lewis		5	0				

On the subscription lists for 1790, 1791 and 1792 the following additional names appear;

Robert Walker, Arthur Chambers, John Marshall, Archibald Thompson, James Nesbit, M. D., Richard Smith, John Galbraith, Thomas Whittaker, William McConnell, William Steel, James Fulton, Simon Weston.

New names appear in 1793 as follows;—

William Rose, Thomas Dwyer, Alexander Donaldson, Alexander Moore, John Armitage, John Dorland, William States, James Thompson, Ebenezer Woolaston, Amos Moore, Anthony Molloy, Daniel Baker, Stephen Drury, Peter Staglether, Daniel McCoy, and William Searlight.

Some of the above names are still found on the rolls of the church, while descendants of others are also found there. Benjamin Elliott was a member of the convention that framed the State Constitution of Pennsylvania in 1776 and was also a member of the State Convention which ratified the Constitution of the United States. John Cadwallader another of the signers of the subscription list was first postmaster of the new town of Huntingdon, as it was re-named by its founder, Dr. William Smith and chartered in 1796.

A later subscription list beginning with the year 1795 and bearing the original signatures was found a few years ago by Miss Jennie McCahan and presented to the Congregation. It was framed and now hangs on the rear wall of the Church auditorium. Significant of the fact that human nature does not change through the years is a notation on this list, "Cash received of Adam Hall; not willing to put his name to the subscription paper, pays this gratis".

On October, 7th., 1789, Rev. Mr. Johnston was released from the Shavers Creek Congregation to accept a call to the Huntingdon Church for one-half his time. He accepted the call at the next meeting of Presbytery, then the Presbytery of Carlisle, April 13, 1790. This action effected the organization of the Congregation, six years before the organization of Huntingdon Presbytery in 1795.

In 1793 the names of Benjamin Elliott, Matthew Simpson, James Nesbit and James Patton appear as the "Business Committee" of the Congregation. While there is no record to this effect, all those early session records having

been lost or destroyed, it is altogether probable that these men constituted the Session of the church at that time.

The Presbyterian is the oldest church organization in Huntingdon. Dr. William Smith, provost of the University of Pennsylvania, who laid out the town and named it in honor of Selena, Countess of Huntingdon, during his visit to the place, no doubt, conducted religious services according to the rites of the Episcopal Church but did not organize a church. The Lutherans came in 1791, the Methodists in 1797. A German Reformed minister came in 1806. But the Presbyterians pushed their way up the Juniata to Standing Stone early in the century as has been shown, and organized this church, July 6, 1789.

For many years the Presbyterian Congregation had no house of worship, but held their services in the Court House, as did other denominations, which were subsequently organized. When the town of Huntingdon was founded Dr. William Smith, the proprietor, donated plots of ground for a Public School, a cemetery, and to each of six denominations for the erection of houses of worship, to wit; German Calvinist, Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian and Protestant Episcopal. All these denominations, except the Catholic, later disposed of their plots of ground. The Catholic Church devoted their plot for use as a cemetery, where it continues to exist, at the corner of Second and Church Streets.

From the date of its organization to the year 1826, very little of record can be found, to tell of its work, but, under the guidance of its pastor, Rev. John Johnston, the church continued to grow in numbers and strength. Until the time of his death in 1823 he continued to serve the Hartslog Congregation with one half his time. In 1814, during the War with Great Britain, he preached a sermon in the Hartslog Church, bearing on the always controversial subject of the war, which caused such dissatisfaction that a considerable number of his members withdrew and later founded a separate Presbyterian Congregation in Alexandria. Mr. Johnston, bought a home at the corner of Second and Penn Streets, where he lived until the time of his death in 1823, having served the Huntingdon Congregation for thirty-three years, and the Hartslog Congregation for thirty-six years.

One of the very interesting papers left by Rev. Mr. Johnston, is a list of the marriages he performed while pastor of these churches, given as follows, showing the persistence of the names found there, many of whose descendants are still living in Huntingdon and vicinity. This list of marriages was found in papers belonging to A. P. W. Johnston, who with Mrs. G. E. Simpson are descendants of Rev. John Johnston.

List of marriages performed by Rev. John Johnston, 1787—1823

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1787, John Ewing & Elizabeth McCormick
John Barton & Susan Furguson
James Parks & Jane Entrican
John Shepherd & Elizabeth Bell
Geo. Montgomery & Rebecca Johnston
James Hustan & Katherine Ewing
Wm. Neilson & Elizabeth Rickets | 1790, Robert Moffat & Ann Furguson
James Jones & Eleanor Morton
James Alexander & Nancy Armitage
John Campbell & Jean Ralston |
| 1789, James Dermont & Esther Long
David Caldwell & Rebecca Dean
Walter Carswell & Margaret McClure
Thomas Crownover & Rachel Rickets
Thomas Henderson & Sarah Porter
James Dermont & Rebecca Finley | 1791, Thomas Parks & Ann Kerr
Hugh McCaleb & Mary Stewart
Nathaniel Gossage & Tempe Kelly |
| | 1792, Thomas Rickets & Jane Whetzel
James Hunter & Margaret Montgomery
Hugh Means & Margaret Dean
David Hunter & Catherine Gray |

- 1793, William Starr & Mary Armitage
Robert Glenn & Mary Cunningham
- 1794, James Stewart & Jane Johnston
James Drury & Mary Reynolds
Robert Dean & Abigail McCune
Jacob Armitage & — Maxwell
Wm. McCoy & Drusilla Browning
Andrew Porter & Ann Lowry
William Millar & Elizabeth Law
- 1795, John Palmer & Elizabeth Ashman
William Eacons & Phebe Perry
— Brown & — Weakley
Joseph Cox & Jean Law
Charles Caldwell & Isabella Stitt
Patrick Gwin & Margaret Foley
Jonathan Johnston & Margaret Finley
Patrick Coulter & Nancy Findley
David McMurtrie & Martha Elliott
- 1796, John Davis & Rebecca Browning
Samuel Galbraith & Ann Morrison
Nathaniel Bryan & Jane Taylor
Samuel Ewing & Nancy Cotton
Andrew Bell & Margaret Martin
Daniel Baloo & Poll Murray
John Dean & Elizabeth Smith
Thomas Porter & Jane Montgomery
John Forrest & Martha Wilson
Joseph Oburn & Elizabeth Logan
Benj. Patton & Phebe Dwyer
- 1797, John Davis & Elizabeth Wilson
John Rosenberg & Elizabeth Dickson
David Stewart & Margaret Hunter
Robert Young & Margaret Dean
James Smith & Margaret Hartford
Joseph Potter & Rachel Jackson
John Hewitt & Elizabeth Grove
Christian Musselman & Mary Shultz
Samuel Caldwell & Margaret Dean
John McConnell & Jane Armitage
- 1798, Geo. Cunningham & Jane Moore
Thomas Chapman & Mary Moore
Robert Simpson & Nancy Moore
Joseph Moore & Hannah Davis
Robert Campbell & Rebecca Robinson
Bartholomew Davis & Margaret Cluggage
Robert Reid & Elizabeth Allison
Alexander Lynn & Rosanna Warnock
John Ross & Agness McKittrock
Joseph Henderson & Jane Elliott
William Estep & Emelia Wright
Caleb Armitage & Catherine McCabe
Samuel Stewart & Ann Wilson
David Moore & Elizabeth Davis
James McMurtrie & Elizabeth Elliott
- 1799, Andrew Boyer & Susannah Heistan
William Laird & Ann Drennan
Robert Johnston & Mary Johnston
Edward Bell & Mary Ann Martin
William Corbet & Sarah Roberts
Samuel Postlethwaite & Nancy Corbett
Samuel McClelland & Jane McDonald
- 1800, Thomas Lloyd & Nancy Moore
Robert Orr & Ann Huston
Rev. Alexander McIlwaine & Catherine Canan
James Robinson & Margaret McLaughlin
John Hennen & Elizabeth Johnston
David Newingham & Susan Kurtz
Samuel Linn & Margaret Warnock
John Gahagan & Elizabeth Watson
- 1801, Adam Corry & Margaret Eakin
John Spencer & Elizabeth Caldwell
George Barnet & Dolly Davis
John Patton & Rebecca Simpson
Samuel Fisher & Rebecca Dorland
Samuel King & Ann Marshall
Griffith Evans & Jane Maxwell
Abr. Sharron & Isabella McLaughlin
James McLaughlin & Nelly McCall
John Stewart & Margaret Wilson
Hugh McConnaughey & Margaret McCune
- 1802, Peter Igow & Sarah McLene
J. P. McKnight & Polly Adams
James Watson & Sarah Grey
Charles Moore & Mary Reed
Jacob Brenniman & Eleanor Johnston
Thomas Postlethwaite & Mary Drake
John Eagle & Catherine Spencer
Thomas Beatty & Rachel Fee
William Ward & Elizabeth Moore
John McCabe & Polly Kurtz
William Hains & Sarah Dorland
Robert Allison, Esq. & Polly Elliott
- 1803, Robert Connor & Elizabeth Scott
Thomas King & Martha Norris
John McCahan & Martha Anderson
Peter Hughes & Rachel Davis
James Orbison, Esq. & Mrs. Patterson
John Crawford & Grace Cadwallader
William Jackson & Fanny Simonton
Thomas Laird & Mary Ann Lapsley
Henry Coy & Christena Kerns
Alexander Powers & Sarah Armitage
— Stirk & — Duncan
Joseph Gilmore & Polly Chambers
Alexander Wylie & — Grady
- 1804, Samuel Hemphill & Sally Laird
Samuel Fisher & Polly Lyon
Abraham Robison & Margaret McCune
— Humphrey & Margaret Wright
John Postlethwaite & Martha Campbell
Robert Trotter & Elizabeth Brindle
William McCullough & Jane Calhoun
William Moore & Elizabeth Barber
- 1805, Caleb Armitage & Jane Simpson
Isaac Campbell & Mary F. Thompson
Maxwell Kinkead & Deborah Cadwallader
Benjamin Elliott & Susan Hains
Dutton Lane & Elizabeth Parkinson
Robert Morrow & Polly Brenniman
John Patterson & Nelly Hays
David Laird & Ann Law
William Flemming & Sarah Saggett
Patrick Coulter & Sarah Jones
James Stewart & Jane Gray
Rev. Mr. Haas & Elizabeth Miller
James Simonton & Sarah Johnston
Peter Link & Catherine Lamont
John Yocum & Sarah Dowler
William Stewart & Catherine Spier
John Carothers & Jane Bole
Hezekiah Patterson & Mary Taylor
- 1806, Samuel Fulton & Margaret Gahagan
William Robb & Polly Livingston
John Cuning & Martha Fergus
John Sloan & Widow Canan
Jon. Wall & Eleanor Hutchinson
Peter Hughes & Mary Stevens
Samuel Vance & Rosanna Brown
William Alexander & Nancy Davis
James Armstrong & Elizabeth Drake
George Anshutz & Martha Simpson
George Dowler & Miriam Carter
John Thompson & Sophia Davis
Dr. George Fisher & Sally Chambers
Robert Adams & Margaret Crawford
Joseph Dorland & Elizabeth Woodburn
John Wright & Mary Fee
Joseph Scott & Sarah Davis
John McCarty & Emelia Roberts
Philip Shultz & Catherine Grafus
- 1807, Samuel Lowry & Matty Frost
William States & Catherine Lloyd
John Thomas (Barber) & Lucy Brindle
Samuel McGlathery & Elizabeth McDowell
Patrick Hays & Elizabeth Dorland
Jeremiah Cunningham & Eleanor Bowers
Henry Hanawalt & Mary Caughey
Moses Canan & Mary Henderson
John Dunlap & Nelly Davis
Thomas Rees & Nancy Roller
Abraham Shockey & Polly Steel

- 1808, Jacob Hewitt & Margaret Gray
Thomas Martin & Mary Johnston
David Tussey & Elizabeth Means
Thomas Hemphill & Ann Laird
David Lloyd & Mary Moore
James Maguire & Deborah Scott
William Orbison, Esq. & Eleanor Elliott
Matthew Buchanan & Susan Moore
William Spencer & Elizabeth Jackson
- 1809, James Drake & Elizabeth Postlethwaite
Leonard Cochlin & Rachel Steel
Abraham Grafus & Fanny Gray
Charles Trepier & Peggy Hammil
Harry Miller & Margaret Hoover
James Stewart & Rachel Roberts
Peter Cornelius & Elizabeth Armstrong
Daniel Hewitt & Polly Swoope
John Henderson & Margaret Brennan
Samuel Anderson & Mary Tussey
- 1810, Robert Boyd & Hannah Fay
Joseph Fay & Mrs. Fluke (widow)
George Moritz & Eve Prough
William Moore & Mary Ann Stewart
William Simpson & Jean Dean
Shipley Priestley & Jean Magee
James Elliott & Eleanor McCartney
Michael Moratz & Elizabeth Prough
John Campble & Mary McDonald
- 1811, William Spier & Jane Lindsay
David Lindsay & Rose Startzman
Isaac Dorland & Jane McNamara
John Roberts & Margaret Caughey
Diemer Burd & Fanny Lowery
Robert Hazlett & Mary Forster
Dr. John Henderson & Elizabeth Allison
John Miller, Esq. & Patty Armitage
Brice Stephens & Elizabeth Tanner
Jacob Miller & Harriet Elliott
Joseph Williams & Rachel Beatty
Joseph Adams & Mary Crumm
- 1812, Thomas Kerr & Widow Hill
William Brown & Elizabeth Mytinger
Thomas Jackson & Catherine McIlwaine
James Robinson & Elizabeth Allen
Aaron Allen & Hannah Thomas
Samuel Fleming & Polly Henry
David Leonard & Sarah Kyle
William McIlroy & Abigail Spencer
Christian Hewitt & Polly Roller
David Allen & Elizabeth Caldwell
- 1813, Thomas Lloyd & Catherine Moor
Josiah Clawson & Margaret Scott
George Brennizer & Elizabeth Burrell
David Davies & Mary Alexander
Frederick Brooks & Hannah Mickle
Thomas Owen & Margaret Means
Matthew Glasco & Sarah Drake
James McClellan & Elizabeth Wilson
John Vandevender & Lydia Fee
James Cherry & Actias Musgrove
- 1814, William Johnston & Elizabeth Caldwell
Samuel Brisbane & Catherine Mytinger
Samuel Bard & Margaret McCarter
Jonathan Doyle & Elizabeth Postlethwaite
William P. Elliott & Emily H. Smith
Jacob Igow & Agnes Scott
— Hazlett & Jane Wright
John Canan & Mary Walker
John Mitchell & Mrs. Nancy Miles
Francis Smith & Ann Brennan
John Lower & Isabella Laney
Robert McNamara & Jane Hollingshead
John Dorland & Jane Postlethwaite
John Crum & Mary McAlevy
Wm. McAlevy, Jr. & Jane Wilson
Edward Patton & Anna McMurtrie
James Porter & Sarah Ray
- 1815, James Robinson & Nancy Lang
George Mahood & Margaret Simonton
John Wilson & Susan Grafus
Thomas Wallace & Eleanor Crawford
James Barbour & Polly Ramsey
- Henry Henyet & Margaret Cresswell
Joseph Michael & Eleanor Wilson
Philip Silknitter & Mary Ann Dowler
Thomas Postlethwaite & Ann Dorland
Andrew Neff & Elizabeth
William Patton & Henrietta Anthony
William Stewart & Anna Gray
Henry Irwin & Elizabeth Cromwell
Samuel Patton & Polly Macauley
John Sexton & Margaret Laird
William Donaldson & Elizabeth Nesbit
Alexander A. Anderson, Esq. & Jane Patton
John Parks & Jane Parkinson
John Walker, Jr. & Susanna Blair
Thomas M. Galbraith & Nancy Scott
Alexander Ramsey & Elizabeth Ridenour
Benjamin R. Stevens & Margaret Moor
John Brotherline & Margaret McNamara
Samuel Duncan & Margaret Kyle
Robert Elder & Elizabeth Reed
Dr. James Stewart & Matilda Elliott
Lazarus Lowry & Sidney Holliday
George A. Armitage & Sarah Vandevender
John Barry & Mary Anshutz
Samuel Miller & Charlotte Grafus
Samuel Woods & Lily Ker
Jonathan Hartsock & Elizabeth Sell
- 1817, John McCabe & Mary Glazier
William Ingraham & Mary Nicholson
Hugh Hazlett & Jane Starr
George Marshall & Jane McDermott
Vincent Robison & Susannah Hess
Andrew Couch & Rebecca Green
William Wilson & Jane Eynghart
John Johnston & Catherine Johnston
John Stitt & Martha Galbraith
William Dorris & Nancy Stitt
- 1818, John Jacobs & Dorcas Vandevender
Gilbert Cheny & Ann Dearthmont
Andrew Newell & Margaret Doris
Andrew Armstrong & Jane Neilson
John Martin & Jane Maxwell
Robert Canan & Jane Reigart
John Port & Polly Fox
John Dunn & Elizabeth Montgomery
Benjamin Warrick & Amy Bye
John Henderson & Jane Kyle
- 1819, John Leffard & Margaret Jones
Charles Raymond & Mary Gwin
John Anderson & Grace Reigart
John Yocum & Margaret White
James Dysart & Elizabeth Roller
- 1820, George Fee & Jane Porter
Joel Isenberg & Margery Canan
John Crawford, Esq. & Mary Patterson
Rev. David Blair & Margaret Steel
- 1821, Alexander Ennis & Rebecca McElwaine
James Simpson & Lydia Simpson
Joseph Dowler & Elizabeth Simpson
Tobiah Lang & Elizabeth Hawn
Henry Swoope & Nancy Neff
Hugh H. Brady & Sarah Smith Evans
John Scott, Esq. & Nancy Irwin
Harry Miller & Ann Miller
- 1822, Evan Crane & Sarah Means
David Hazard & Sarah Miller
William Copeland & Mary Simpson
David Stewart & Sarah Walker
James Ferguson & Margaret Bratton
Moses Canan & Polly Moore
Robert Simpson & Sarah Jackson
John Williamson, Esq. & Elizabeth Steel
Samuel Eckberger & Ann Vandevender
John Swan Blair & Sarah Lambert
William Galbraith & Nancy Gahagan
David Thompson & Martha Porter
- 1823, George Wilson & Nancy Cunningham
George Householder & Mrs. Ridenour
Peter Nail & Mary Africa
Joseph Stewart & Judith Lloyd
Rodman Wilcox & Rosanna Gwin
Peter Swoope & Martha Vandevender

Many members of the Congregation and other residents of Huntingdon and vicinity can trace their ancestral lines back to this list of marriages made over a hundred years ago.

CHAPTER II.

Upon the death of Rev. John Johnston, which occurred on December, 16th, 1823, he was succeeded as pastor by Rev. John Peebles, who was called, April 22nd and 23rd to the Huntingdon and Hartslog Churches, and was ordained and installed, June 22nd, 1825. He was to devote two-thirds of his time to the Huntingdon Church, for which he was to be paid \$400.00 annually, and one-third of his time to the Hartslog Church. Upon the death of Rev. James Thompson, pastor of the Alexandria and Shavers Cr  ek churches, the way was opened for the re-union of the Alexandria and Hartslog congregations, thus healing the breach which had occurred in 1814. That this reunion might be effected, Mr. Peebles unselfishly resigned as pastor of the Hartslog Congregation, relinquishing one-third of his salary and confining his labors to the Huntingdon congregation. To eke out a meagre living he sometimes preached at Newton Hamilton and at Williamsburg until they were strong enough to call a pastor and sometimes preached at the Union School house in Henderson township. The income from these latter sources was very uncertain.

It seems that in 1833 for some reason Rev. Mr. Peebles had notified the Trustees of his intention to retire. While the real reason was not given, it was evidently on account of scanty payments of the \$400 salary. Accordingly a meeting of the Congregation was called to meet with the Trustees, to discuss this matter. The meeting took place at the church on Fourth Street on March 16, 1833, with the following persons present,— Messrs Orbison, Kerr, Allison, Moore, J. Whittaker, Jacob Miller, B. Miller, C. Miller, Simpson, Bracken, Fockler, T. Whittaker, Wilson, James Porter, Postlethwaite, James McCahan, Jno. K. McCahan, William Williams, Williamson, Clopbaugh, Thompson, Lang, D. McMurtrie, Jr., Hemphill, McCartney, John Simpson, Mrs. Dorsey, Mrs. Dorris, Mrs. Jackson, and Mr. Schultz.

Matthew Wilson was appointed Chairman, and Jacob Miller Secretary. Moved by Mr. Orbison, seconded by Mr. Kerr, that a Committee of three members be appointed to draft an address to Rev. John Peebles on the subject of his withdrawal from the Congregation, which motion was considered and agreed to unanimously. Whereupon Messrs Orbison, Kerr and Wm. Williams were appointed on said Committee to report forthwith. Mr. Orbison reported the following which was read, considered and adopted unanimously, to wit,—

“Rev’d. and Dear Sir;

The Presbyterian Congregation in Huntingdon and vicinity, under your pastoral care, have heard of the announcement of your intention to ask for a discharge from your official duties, with sincere regret. So far as the undersigned have learned, and they have been careful to acquire correct information on the subject, this imperfion of regret is unanimous. However feelingly we might indulge in setting forth the beneficial effects of your ministry amongst us, we are well aware that such exhibition would ill accord with your personal sensibilities, and your known and sincere ascription of all the praise to your Divine Master. We will therefore forbear to enlarge on this topic. We do not object to your consulting your own health and convenience, and with this view, would respectfully propose that you postpone your

design to ask for a dismissal, until the experiment of travelling for the establishment of your health has been tried, and that in the meantime, your salary shall be continued, in the fond hope that you may through the blessings of Divine Providence again assume and exercise your pastoral duties amongst us. Your reply in such manner and at such time as you may find convenient is respectfully asked.

With much regard Etc.

In response to the above letter Mr. Peebles agreed to remain as pastor, but in 1835 the issue was raised again.

At a meeting of the Congregation, held on September 26, 1835, to consider Mr. Peebles' second request for dissolution of the Pastoral relation, the following preamble and resolutions were adopted, to wit;

"When a pastor or his people become dissatisfied with the relations which they sustain towards each other, it is just and proper that the party disaffected should be permitted to make known his or their feelings on the subject, and it is the duty of the party to be affected by the separation, unless peculiar circumstances forbid, to submit. It was with unfeigned sorrow the Congregation received notice of the wish of their beloved Pastor to be separated from them. Though the Congregation may have had reason to charge themselves with great remissness in duty, they take leave to exculpate their Pastor and bear testimony to his faithfulness in all his parochial relations. But, inasmuch as he has assigned reasons for a separation, which to him appear satisfactory, it would ill accord with the love and respect which we bear to him, to resist his wishes, therefore, be it RESOLVED, that John Kerr be a commissioner on behalf of the Congregation, to attend the next meeting of Presbytery to be held in Mifflin County (and in case of inability to attend that William Dorris be appointed in his place) and our Commissioner is instructed to make such arrangement that the dismissal shall take place after the first day of January next".

On motion, seconded and agreed to nem. dis. it was further

"RESOLVED, that a Committee of three be appointed to call on and confer with Rev. John Peebles and endeavor to prevail on him to withdraw his intended application for dismissal from the pastoral charge of this Congregation." whereupon Mefs. J. George Miles, William Dorris and Wm. Moore were appointed said Committee with instructions to report at next meeting.

On the 29th of September, this committee reported at the ajourned Congregational meeting. Mr. J. George Miles, for the Committee, made report as follows, which, with the accompanying resolution was read, considered and adopted unanimously, Viz.—

"The Committee appointed at the last meeting of the Trustees and Pew holders of said Congregation to wait upon the Rev. John Peebles, their Pastor and endeavor to prevail on him to withdraw his application to be discharged from his

pastoral charge of said Congregation beg leave to report. That they have performed the duty assigned them and in an interview with Mr. Peebles found that he had been greatly discouraged in the discharge of his clerical duties in the Congregation from several causes, all tending to impress him with the belief that he was not regarded as a suitable instrument to labour in this part of the Lord's vineyard. He seemed to think he had been felt to be a dead weight upon the interests of the church here and that he could be more useful elsewhere. Of the circumstances that had discouraged him, the most prominent were an apparent apathy and coldness which seemed to have taken possession of the whole Congregation in regard to the interests of the Church—both spiritual and temporal—Divine service was but thinly attended, by either the rising generation or those more advanced in years. The heads of families were not found in their pews as formerly—where it was expected they would be waiting upon the means of grace, and encouraging their children, by their own example, to come up to the house of the LORD on all suitable occasions."

"The temporal affairs of the Church seemed to be equally neglected, although a large debt existed against the Congregation, causing the pew rents to be much higher than they ought to be, no means were adopted for its extinguishment in any reasonable time. Even meetings of the Trustees seemed to be impracticable to consult on the pecuniary concerns of the Church. In view of these discouraging circumstances Mr. Peebles had come to the conclusion that there was some radical defect in himself—some insuperable obstacle in the way of his rousing the people from the listlessness into which they had fallen, arising from some personal disqualifications in himself, and he therefore had thought the path of duty pointed to his giving up his charge to make room for some one who would be more congenial to the feelings of the people and better suited to administer to their spiritual wants."

"Your Committee, however, assured him that he was entirely mistaken in his impression that his hearers had become weary of his pastoral labours, and that the Congregation entertained the highest regard for him personally, and that he was as well calculated to do good amongst us as anyone, whose services we could hope to obtain. Your Committee informed him that an Executive Committee had been appointed by the Trustees, at their recent meeting, to take charge of the temporal concerns of the Church, and that there was now a prospect of more energy being brought to bear upon the subjects connected with its external government."

"Your Committee believe that they have succeeded to a considerable extent in removing the impression from the mind of their excellent and worthy pastor, that his services would be more useful elsewhere than here, and have prevailed upon him to relinquish the idea of giving up his charge."

"And your Committee now beg leave to call the attention of the Congregation to a subject which has been entirely the

offspring of the spontaneous feelings of those of its members who were present at the meeting on Saturday, and with which Mr. Peebles has had nothing to do. He has made no complaint on the score of compensation for his pastoral labours, but desires to be distinctly understood as saying that the Congregation has substantially redeemed every promise it ever made to him on that score, but it seems to be conceded on all hands at the recent meeting that his salary was entirely inadequate to the comfortable support of his family, and your Committee was authorized to ask him whether he would consent to remain with the Congregation and give it **the whole of his time** his salary being raised to six hundred dollars. Your Committee proposed this question for his consideration, after having succeeded, as they think, in removing the impression which had taken possession of his mind that he could not be as useful as another in his pastoral labours here. To this proposition he replied that he had made an arrangement with a small congregation in Newton Hamilton to give it the one-fourth of his time, and that he felt an interest in the people there, who had raised a small subscription of one hundred and thirty dollars a year for him and that, if it was congenial to the feelings of his hearers here, if he remained with them, he would prefer retaining the Charge of his flock in Newton Hamilton at least for a time, until they had an opportunity of being better supplied.—We then proposed giving him five hundred dollars a year for three-fourths of his time and to let him retain the charge of the Newton Hamilton Congregation until the debts of this Congregation be brought more under control of the Trustees, and to this arrangement Mr. Peebles has consented provided it meets with the entire approbation of the Congregation.”

“And now permit your Committee to appeal—not to the sympathies of the Congregation but to its justice; and not on behalf of Mr. Peebles, for in reference to continuing the connection between him and the Congregation, an increase of salary has not entered into his consideration, although your Committee conscientiously believes it ought to have had some weight with him, but the appeal is made in behalf of the Church itself.”

“Is it expected that those who are called by the Spirit to withdraw themselves from the noise, confusion and turmoil of this business world, and fit themselves by a laborious and anxious examination of the truths of revelation, for imparting spiritual instruction to others, can be supported by other than natural means? Do we expect that those whose sacred office unfits them for accumulating the beggarly elements of this world, will be fed by manna descending from Heaven at this day when God has provided an abundance to be distributed by natural means amongst his children? Is it expected that the morning and evening aspirations, which ascend from the family altar of our instructor in religious truth, will turn aside the chilling wind, which blows where it listeth? They and their families are of the same flesh and blood,—have the same natural wants and the same natural inabilities as the

rest of the human soul. Your Committee are then persuaded the Congregation will feel it to be its duty to provide the natural means of sustaining the household of its worthy pastor,—and they think there can be but one opinion as to the entire insufficiency of his present salary to effect that object,—they therefore beg leave to report the following resolution,—and they do it with a belief that it will meet with the approbation of the whole Congregation.”

“RESOLVED, that from and after the first day of January next (1836) the Congregation will pay to the Revd. John Peebles a salary of five hundred dollars per year for three-fourths of his time given to the pastoral duties of said Congregation, and the Trustees be authorized to contract with Mr. Peebles accordingly.”

Following the meeting of the Congregation and pewholders and the happy result of the proceedings, Mr. Peebles continued as pastor until 1850. It is significant that in a subscription to pay off the church debt taken in 1846, Mr. Peebles subscribed the third largest amount, and in 1843 the movement for a larger church building was started which resulted in the building of the new church at Sixth and Penn Streets. At the same time the records show that a number of unpaid pew rents were marked up to profit and loss, among them one which reads,—“That John Jones having ran off, the account be closed (Twelve dollars and fifty cents) for rent of pew 29, two years.”

On retiring from the pastorate he settled on a farm in West Virginia, but returned to Huntingdon in 1854 and died on August 11th of the same year and was interred in our own Riverview Cemetery. The pastorates of these two men, Rev. John Johnston for thirty-three years and Rev. John Peebles for twenty-five years, with an interval of two years, cover sixty-one years of the history of the Congregation.

One of the outstanding men in these earlier years of the church was Jacob Miller who served as Treasurer from January 1, 1826 to December 31, 1848, when he was succeeded by David Snare. Mr. Miller was a fine penman and his records look almost like steel engravings. Many of his records are also found in the office of the Recorder at the Court House in Huntingdon, and can be recognized on sight. The first item with which he charges himself on the Treasurer's book was for seven dollars and fifty cents from David McMurtrie.

The following quotation from Rupp's History, was published in 1847.

Viator, a traveller and correspondent of the Commercial Herald, visiting Huntingdon about 1830, describes it as follows,—

“There is nothing to interest the traveller, until you get near Huntingdon, the County town, except an occasional peep at the river and canal, and some fine mountain scenery. In approaching the town the prospect is peculiarly beautiful. At about a mile distance, the road, cut through a valuable quarry of solid rock, acquires an elevation of twenty or thirty feet above the canal, from which it is separated by a railing placed on a nearly perpendicular wall. On rounding the hill, the aqueduct across the mouth of Stone Creek—the town beyond, with its spires, gardens, and adjacent highly cultivated fields, the canal and variegated “leafy world” on the surrounding hills burst at once on the enraptured vision: The “Grave-yard Hill”, within the limits of the Borough, covered with half-grown forest trees is (strange to tell) an admired and much frequented spot. It has long been noted for the wealth, intelligence and hospitality, and the amiable manners of the inhabitants.”

The first real estate owned by the Congregation was the lot deeded to it by Rev. Wm. Smith D. D., the founder and proprietor of Huntingdon, in a deed, dated November 14th., 1795 which is on record at the Court House in Huntingdon, described as follows,—“Beginning on the Westerly side of Smith Street, (now Third Street) and Northerly side of Church Street, at the intersection of said streets, and continuing 200 feet in depth or breadth on Church Street, and 200 feet in depth on Smith Street, extending from Church Street aforesaid along the Westerly side to the Public burying ground.” This lot, on the northwest corner of Third and Church Streets was never used by the church. The original deed contained an additional clause which provided that if this lot was not used “for the pious purposes expressed, within a period of twenty-one years, it should revert to the grantor or his heirs”.

The lot did not revert to the grantor or his heirs, for in April, 1860 the Congregation petitioned the Court for permission to sell this lot, describing it “as an uninclosed and unproductive lot”. The Court granted this permission and appointed James Gwin, Trustee, who advertised the lot and sold it at public sale in May, 1860 to the Burgesses and Town Council of the Borough of Huntingdon, for the sum of \$250. This sale was confirmed by the Court, August 18, 1860 and the transfer made September 10th. of the same year.

In 1817 the Presbyterian Congregation joined with the Protestant Episcopal and the German Lutheran Congregations in the completion of a building which the latter two congregations had undertaken to erect at the Northeast corner of Montgomery (now Fourth) and Church Streets, on four lots conveyed by Richard Smith and wife to William R. Smith and John Whittaker, Trustees of the Protestant Episcopal Church; Samuel Steele and John McCahan, Trustees of the Presbyterian Congregation and Michael Africa and Christian Colestock, Trustees of the German Lutheran Church. This building, begun in 1806 by the German Lutheran Church was not completed until 1817. In this building, these three congregations, worshiped alternately for a number of years. Debts accrued for which no satisfactory adjustment could be made and the interests of the Episcopal and Presbyterian congregations were sold at Sheriff's Sale, November 30, 1826. The German Lutheran congregation seems to have carried on for a time, but their interest was also sold by the Sheriff, January 20, 1841. The title passed to Henry Miller.

The Presbyterians now began a movement to secure a church building of their own. At a meeting of the Congregation held in the Union Meeting House at which Robert Allison presided the following action was taken; Resolved. That a committee be appointed “to ascertain on what terms the German Presbyterian meeting house can be had for the accommodation of this Congregation for the present, and that this same committee be authorized to examine whether a suitable site can be had for the erection of a meeting house and on what terms.” Messrs Dorris, Miller and Kerr were appointed as this committee. The German Presbyterian church here referred to, is now the Abbey Reformed Church, whose meeting house at that time stood on lot 199, at the northeast corner of Bath (now Fifth) and Mifflin Streets, which was built in 1815. This is the lot on which the present First Methodist Episcopal Church now stands and which, at that time ran through from Mifflin to Church Streets.

At a meeting held on July 16, 1825, this committee reported that they had interviewed Messrs. Swoope and Graffius, Trustees of the German Presbyterian Church, and that this congregation could have the use of their meeting house without compensation. This committee also reported on three different properties which could be had as a site for their proposed new meet-

ing house. One of these was lot 192 at the northwest corner of Montgomery (now Fourth) and Mifflin Streets, the property of a Mr. Howe, deceased. On September 14, 1826, the Trustees, William Orbison, William Dorris and John Kerr executed an agreement with the attorneys of Nancy Howe, for the purchase of this lot for the sum of \$200.00. On December 9, 1827, the Trustees entered into an agreement with James Stitt for the erection of a brick building on this lot, agreeing to pay him the sum of \$2,000.

Jacob Miller, the Church Treasurer was also the Treasurer of this building fund. The first entry in his ledger is for \$100.00 from William Orbison, forty dollars of which was his own subscription, fifty dollars he had collected from David McMurtrie and five dollars each from James Gwin and William Dorris. Later, these same men are credited with additional amounts.

The corner stone of this new building was laid August 13, 1828 with elaborate ceremonies conducted by Rev. E. G. Ely, D. D. representative of the Presbyterian Board of Missions. On the day of the laying of the corner stone, Dr. Ely, collected and turned over to Jacob Miller the sum of \$215.37½. Later other amounts were turned over to the Treasurer which evidently had been pledged then and paid later. After many delays and some disputes with the contractor, the building was completed late in 1830. This building still stands on the west side of Fourth Street between Mifflin and Church, where the original arched doorway and the cornerstone can be seen. There were fifty-six pews in this building, the annual rental of which ranged from ten to twenty-five dollars. On the subscription list for pews, July 1, 1830 the following names appear.—

No. of Pew	No. of Pew
2. Jacob Miller	25. G. M. Totten
3. William Moore	26. John Miller
4. H. B. Smith & Co.	27. William Orbison
5. John Bracken, Archibald Stitt	28. John Kerr
6. J. K. Moorhead	29. Samuel Steel
7. William Williams	30. Read & Swoope
8. Patrick Gwin.	31. John McCahan
9. Nancy Donaldson, John McGuire	32. David McMurtrie, Jr., B. E. McMurtrie, M. D.
11. Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Rothrock	33. Benjamin Miller & Gregg
12. John Whittaker	34. James Coffey, M. D.
13. John Nash, W. H. King	37. Thomas Fisher, George Jackson
14. Thomas King	41. Eliza Claybaugh, Rhoda Hazzard
15. John Glazier	42. David Snare, Thomas Whittaker
16. Mrs. Armitage	45. Ellen Ramsey
17. Davis & Henderson	46. James Hemphill
20. James Gwin, John K. McCahan	48. Lightner & McKennan
21. William Swoope, M. D., J. George Miles	51. Wallace & Hemphill
22. William Dorris	53. David R. Porter
23. William Simpson	55. Robert Allison
24. David McMurtrie	

The contractor for the building was not obligated to erect a steeple, and that was the subject of another contract made with Stephen Axtell in July, 1830. A few years after its completion a bell was purchased, the second large one in the town, and used on this building and on the second church afterwards erected at Sixth and Penn Streets. It later was sold to the Reformed Church, where it hung until the present Abbey Church was erected. Sometime after the completion of this first church building, need was felt for a musical instrument of some kind, to lead the singing. After considerable discussion, a melodeon was purchased and installed. One of the members could not stand this innovation and rushed out of the building and down the street where he met another, a late comer on his way to the service, to whom he addressed himself,—"Don't go up to that church tonight, they have the devil there in the shape of a fuddle". Church members seem to have had ideas in those early days as they still do.



THE FIRST CHURCH BUILDING OF HUNTINGDON PRESBYTERIAN CONGREGATION
USED FROM 1830 TO 1845. STILL STANDING AT FOURTH AND MIFFLIN STREETS

SECOND CHURCH BUILDING STOOD ON CORNER OF SIXTH AND PENN STREETS
USED FROM 1845 TO 1873

From the records it appears that the congregation worshipped in this building only about fourteen years. No apparent reason for leaving can be found, but in 1843 plans were being formed for the erection of the second church building at the southwest corner of Franklin (now Sixth) and Hill (now Penn) streets. In December, 1843 proposals were invited by the Trustees and in January, 1844 the contract was let to Charles B. Callahan. Whether by sale or otherwise, the old church edifice at Fourth and Mifflin streets must have passed out of the control of the Congregation, as the following letter addressed to the Commissioners of Huntingdon County indicates that the Congregation was destitute of a place to meet.

Huntingdon, March 5, 1844.

To the County Commissioners of Huntingdon County,
Gentlemen:

"We are instructed by the Board of Trustees of the Huntingdon Presbyterian Congregation to represent to you our destitution of a place of worship, our old building being removed. And to request the use of the Court Room about three Sabbaths each month until the first of November next, at which time our new building will be finished. We need not state that use of the room for the time mentioned would not injure it as much as a day's use of it by the Court, for it must be apparent to all. Nor, could your grant of permission to us be drawn into precedent, since it is asked in an extraordinary case, not likely again soon to occur. Should the permission asked be granted, you have the pledge of our Board that the utmost care shall be taken of the building and the County compensated for its use,—if required."

"We have no place of worship large enough to accommodate the congregation, the Seceder church being fitted up and occupied as a school room, and we therefore request an answer if possible before next Sabbath."

Signed, J. N. Creswell, President of the Board
George Taylor, Secretary

This period in the history of the Congregation must have been one of adjustment and looking forward, for in addition to building a new Church, a Charter was drawn up, adopted by the Congregation and approved by the County Court. This interesting ecclesiastical and legal document follows;—

Charter of the Huntingdon Presbyterian Congregation.

On the petition of David Blair, Jacob Miller, James Porter, Theo. H. Cremer, William Orbison, David Snare, George Taylor, E. V. Everhart, Thomas P. Campbell, A. Harrison, John Whittaker, John Cresswell, A. W. Benedict, James S. Read, Samuel S. Wharton, Daniel Africa, James M. Bell, William P. Orbison, A. P. Wilson, John Reed, Thomas Fisher and John Glazier, members of the Congregation presented to the Court of Common Pleas, Jan. 13, 1843, a decree incorporating "The Huntingdon Presbyterian Congregation" was made on the 15th day of April, following.

Constitution of the Huntingdon Presbyterian Congregation

Article First

The name of this association shall be "The Huntingdon Presbyterian Congregation".

Article Second

The members of the Presbyterian Congregation of the Borough of Huntingdon and vicinity, in the county of Huntingdon shall constitute one body politic and corporate in deed and in law, by the name style and title of the Huntingdon Presbyterian Congregation; and by the same name shall have perpetual succession, and be able to sue and be sued, implead and be impleaded, in all courts of law and elsewhere, and shall be capable in law and equity to take and hold to them and their successors, lands, tenements, goods and chattels of whatsoever kind nature or quality, real, personal, and mixed, which is now or shall hereafter become the property of the said Congregation, by gift, grant, bargain and sale, conveyance, assurance, bequest, or devise, and the same to grant, bargain, sell, mortgage, improve, or dispose of for the support of the minister of the Congregation, and for religious, or benevolent or charitable purposes and according to the true intent of the givers, grantors, or devisors; PROVIDED that the clear, yearly value or income beyond the salaries and expenses of the Congregation shall not exceed two thousand dollars.

Article Third

Section First. The affairs of the Congregation shall be conducted by seven Trustees, a majority of whom shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Section Second. The Trustees shall be chosen from the members of the Congregation in manner hereinafter specified, and shall choose from their own number a President, and Secretary in such manner and at such times, as they shall designate by their by-laws.

Section Third. In case of removal, death or resignation, or inability to serve, of any of the Trustees, the vacancy or vacancies shall be supplied by the Board of Trustees until the next annual election.

Section Fourth. The first Board of Trustees shall consist of those in office at the adoption of this Constitution, who shall serve until the first day of January, 1844.

Section Fifth. The election of Trustees shall be held annually, on the first day of January, except when the same is the Sabbath, then on the day preceeding.

Section Sixth. The Board of Trustees shall have power to make, use and have a common seal, and the same to break, alter and renew at pleasure; and to make by-laws for the transaction of their business, not incompatible with the Constitution of the United States and of this state, or of this Charter of Incorporation.

Section Seventh. If the members of the Congregation neglect on the day of the Annual Meeting to hold their election, the corporation shall not be dissolved, but a majority of the Trustees may appoint any subsequent time on which the election may be held; PROVIDED, that notice thereof shall be given from the pulpit or clerk's desk, or in such other manner as a majority of the Trustees may direct, at least two weeks before said election.

Article Fourth

The minister shall be elected by the members, and the ruling elders by the communicants of the congregation.

Article Fifth

The Board of Trustees, shall, as often as they shall deem necessary, or designate by their by-laws, elect from the members of the Congregation,—

One person as Treasurer of the Congregation.

One person as Collector of Pew rents of the Congregation.

One person as Janitor of the Congregation.

Article Sixth

The salary of the minister shall be fixed by the members of the Congregation and the compensation of the Treasurer, Collector and Janitor shall be fixed by the Trustees.

Article Seventh

No other persons than those who have contributed, according to their engagements, to the support of the minister, shall be considered members of this Congregation for any of the purposes referred to in this Constitution; nor shall any but **male** members be entitled to vote for Trustees; and no person, who shall not have been a member of the Congregation for at least six months, and have subscribed and paid at least one dollar of Pew rent, be entitled to vote at any election.

Article Eighth

This Constitution shall not be amended except by the consent of two-thirds of the members of the Congregation, present at any annual meeting, nor unless the proposed amendment shall have been read from the pulpit or clerk's desk upon two Sabbaths within six weeks immediately preceding the meeting, nor unless the same shall be approved by the Court of Common Pleas agreeably to the Act of Assembly in such case made and provided.

The petition and Charter were approved by the Court of Common Pleas, April 15th, 1843, and was recorded in the office of the Recorder of Deeds on the 26th day of September, 1843 in Book D. Number 2, Pages 409-10-11.

The original charter has been amended several times as changed conditions required.

CHAPTER III

This second Church building of the Congregation was dedicated on August 13, 1845, the sermon being preached by Rev. J. W. Yeomans of Danville, Penna. The church was beautiful and simple in design, of brick stuccoed or painted white, with a graceful, lantern belfry. It was forty-six by seventy feet in size, with two storys, the auditorium on the second floor, the first floor being given over to Sunday School, Prayer meeting and Session rooms. There were sixty-six pews, ranging in annual rental from six totwenty dollars, considerably less than the pew rents in the former church edifice. A list of these pew holders follows,—

No. of Pew

1. James Lane, James Boggs
2. James Fockler
5. Mrs. Allison
6. Mrs. Reed
7. George Gwin, Mrs. Armitage
8. J. B. Luden, M. D.
9. ——— Henderson, M. D.
10. Elizabeth W. Miller
11. Mrs. Moore
12. Thomas Whittaker
13. William Swoope, M. D.
14. George Taylor
15. A. K. Cornyn
16. Harrison & Huey
17. John Colestock
20. Oburn & Simpson
21. John A. Campbell
22. W. E. McMurtrie
23. Campbell & Hildebrand
24. Isaac Dorland
25. Margaret & John Whittaker
26. Alexander Gwin
27. Anderson & Dorsey
28. Stitt & Postlethwaite
29. James Gwin
30. William P. Orbison
31. J. George Miles

No. of Pew

32. Samuel S. Wharton
35. John Ker
35. William Orbison
37. Thomas Fisher
38. John McCahan
39. Greenbury Dorsey
40. D. Blair, John Reed
41. William Dorris
42. Mrs. Porter
43. A. W. Benedict
44. Graffius & Glazier
45. Daniel Africa
46. J. Hemphill
47. Andrew Allison
51. Henry Myers & Mrs. McAllister
53. A. Lyman Smith
54. Samuel Hemphill
55. Raymond & Whittaker
56. Charles H. Miller
57. Martha McMurtrie
58. David Snare
59. Allison & Scott
60. Mrs. Steel & Hartley
61. Mrs. Jackson
62. Rev. John Peebles
64. Lang & Watson
65. James Porter

By comparing this list of pew holders with the previous one given of those in the old, first Church, many of the old names are still found, together with many new ones, which now appear on the church lists for the first time. The Trustees at the time this building was commenced were John Kerr, J. George Miles, Thomas Fisher, John Cresswell, John Glazier, George Taylor and Thomas P. Campbell. This seemingly commodius and comfortable building continued to house the Congregation for twenty years, when it became apparent that more room was needed to care for the rapidly increasing number of members. Various plans for the enlargement of the building were proposed from year to year, though the building had seats for about four hundred.

While plans for the new building were in process of being carried out an agreement was entered into by the Trustees with Dr. John McCullough for the sale to him of the old building for the sum of Eight Thousand dollars, which was later increased to Eight thousand, two hundred and fifty dollars. This agreëment also stipulated that the Congregation was to pay rent as long as they continued to occupy the old Church. For some reason not given, Dr. McCullough failed to carry out his part of the agreement, as another agreement was entered into between the Trustees, and Henry S. Wharton and John M. Maguire on September 4th, 1875, in which these men agreed to pay a balance of \$6160.00 to the Congregation for the old church building.

Some years later the building was sold to J. C. Blair, who on this site, as a beginning of the present Tablet Manufactory, made use of the old building in his business. As this business increased more room was needed, which rendered necessary a new building on the Alleghany Street end of the lot, and

later the erection of the eight story building on the site of the Church. As this new building was erected the walls of the old Church were incorporated and tied in with the new walls, and on examination, many of these old walls can still be found.

With the resignation of Rev. John Peebles in April, 1850, the Congregation was without a pastor for a very short time, as Rev. Lowman P. Hawes was called June 11, 1850, and installed shortly thereafter. At a meeting of Presbytery, held in January, 1854, he was released from his charge on account of ill health.

While the records of the Trustees of the church had been kept very clearly from 1825 to nearly 1850, those from 1850 to 1882 were not so well preserved or have been lost making it somewhat difficult to secure a very clear idea of the church's progress, during that period.

Full and complete records of the acts of the Session of the Congregation, are found beginning with the pastorate of Rev. L. P. Hawes in 1850, with Jno. Ker and Charles H. Miller the only members mentioned, Mr. Miller being clerk.

At its meeting on December 12th, of that year a Preamble and Resolutions were adopted and ordered to be read from the pulpit as follows,—

WHEREAS, the Great King of Zion has committed to the spiritual rulers of this church, two keys, for doctrine, discipline, and the strict account which they must render of the authority, entrusted to their hands; no less than the prosperity of the church, under their spiritual oversight, demands a firm and faithful administration of discipline, and whereas, at all times, but especially at a time of religious declension in the church, and the ascendancy of Christ's enemies in the world, there is danger of that clear and marked distinction, which should ever exist between the church and the world, being lost, and the church, which God hath purchased with his own blood, being stript of the spotless purity which becomes the Spouse of the Lamb, and thereby becoming a stumbling block to perishing souls around her, instead of a ministering angel to attract them to brighter worlds, therefore—

Resolved 1st. That it is the duty of the church Sefsiion, as the spiritual guardians of her best interests, to enact and make distinctly known, from time to time, those regulations, by which they will be governed in maintaining the purity of the church; and it is their duty, as watchmen upon the walls of Zion, solemnly to warn the people under their charge, of any new or peculiar dangers, which may imperil the interests of Zion and the salvation of souls.

Resolved 2nd. That it is regarded as a standing rule of the church that drunkenness to intoxication, which is declared in the word of God, to be incompatible with an inheritance of the Kingdom of Heaven, is a disciplinable offence; and whenever a distinct act becomes known and can be substantiated by the evidence, required in the constitution, it will be taken immediate cognizance of.

Resolved 3rd. That dancing or attending upon dancing parties, for the purpose of participating in them, evinces such a spirit of conformity to the world, and such a corrupt state of the affections of the heart, as is inconsistent with the character of those "whose conversation is in heaven" and that it is and has been regarded as a disciplinable offence.

Resolved 4th. That the voluntary absence of a communicating member from the table of the Lord, at two successive communion seasons, without any satisfactory excuse, is inconsistent with the saving faith in Christ, which he professes to have; is a direct violation of the express command of the Saviour, "Do this in remembrance of me", and that it will hereafter be regarded as a Sesssional offense.

Resolved 5th. That gambling in any of its forms, whether by gaming, or raffling or nine pin allies, or in any other way, in which a Holy God is called to witnefs and to decide the lot, for trivial and it may be unfair ends, is inconsistent with the character of those who profets to fear & serve God. It is true, that numerous instances are recorded in the Scriptures of casting lots; but always, when done by the church, on solemn and public occasions; and the lottery which now exists in so many corrupt forms can only find its paternity & its parallel in the case of those who cast lots for our Saviour's vesture, when they crucified him. The breach of the third commandment might, on the same ground, be justified in its full extent of profane swearing, because witnefses in a court of justice are required on solemn occasions, to swear by the name of God, or call him to witnefs that they will tell the truth. In the light of these clear scriptural principles, it will henceforth be regarded as a standing rule of the church that an offence of the aforementioned character, against God, and against Christ and his Church will be a legitimate subject of discipline.

Resolved 6th. That the foregoing resolutions be read by the Pastor from the pulpit, on Sabbath morning, and that it be affectionately enjoined on the heads of families, to exercise that restraining influence particularly over the baptized youth, which they stand solemnly pledged before God to do, and for which they must hereafter be called to a strict account, at the Judgment seat of Jesus Christ, and that the people at large be affectionately warned against the insidious temptations abroad, in a wicked world, and which are "drowning men's souls in destruction and perdition".

These resolutions were read from the pulpit as directed, on the next Sunday morning, and for many years the record of meetings of the Session contain instances where violations of one or more of the resolutions by members of the church were considered. In most cases the offences were dealt with in a wise and painstaking manner and the accused were continued as members in good standing. Occasionally, where the transgressions were too frequent, the accused was suspended for a time, but usually saw the error of his ways and returned to a healthy christian life.

At the April, 1854 meeting of Presbytery a call was presented for Rev. O. O. McClean, and he was installed as pastor June 15th, 1854. He served the Congregation acceptably until, at a meeting of Presbytery, held December 23, 1858 the pastoral relation was dissolved at his request on account of impaired health. On the 14th of June, 1859, he was dismissed to the Presbytery of Cedar, Iowa. The present Manse was erected during the pastorate of Mr. McClean.

It may be a co-incidence but it is significant that these two pastors served the church only about four years each and both resigned on account of ill-health. These were the trying years just preceding the War of the Rebellion, and, no doubt the discussions and conflicts which arose in all the churches of the country, rending whole denominations from top to bottom also arose here, so that a charitable solution of this seeming co-incidence is to attribute the ill-health of these two pastors to general conditions, rather than to any questions of a controversial nature which may have arisen in our local Church. This is evidenced by the fact that the Congregation had continued to grow necessitating a larger building in 1870.

With the dismissal of Rev. Mr. McClean on June 14, 1859, Rev. George W. Zahniser was chosen pastor and received from Erie Presbytery. The call was placed in his hands, accepted and he was installed as pastor on the same day. Soon after the installation of Mr. Zahniser as pastor, a series of revival meetings was held and many accessions to the congregation resulted.



CHAPTER IV

At a Congregational Meeting, held on June 2, 1870, during the pastorate of Rev. George W. Zahniser, the Trustees were authorized to purchase part of lot No. 155, at the south-western corner of Fifth and Mifflin Streets, and ascertain what amount could be raised for the erection of a new, larger church. Another deed from Mary Gwin to the Huntingdon Presbyterian Congregation dated January 30, 1869, conveyed the northern half of lot 156, 50 by 100 feet for the sum of \$400.00. This latter half-lot was the northern end of lot 156, the southern half of which had been previously bought by the Congregation and on which the present manse had been built during the pastorate of Rev. Mr. McClean.

On June 8th, 1870, the Trustees reported to the Congregation that they had purchased the part of lot 155 and that sixteen thousand, forty-five dollars were already subscribed toward the new Church. They were directed to have plans drawn for the new church.

These plans, which were finally adopted, included practically, the present church building as it now stands and a chapel, similar in design at the rear. A contract was entered into with William V. Hughes of Bellefonte for construction of the two buildings. On Sunday, Dec. 15th, 1872, the first service was held in the new chapel, which was used until the Church auditorium was completed and dedicated on September 10th, 1873.

The day of dedication was a most happy one for the Congregation. The auditorium is sixty-three feet in width by eighty-seven in length, and would seat comfortably seven hundred people, and has many times seated more than a thousand. The pews were made of solid local walnut, by Henry Hemphill, a local carpenter, and for solid comfort and sleeping qualities could not be surpassed, as many a member can testify. The building was lighted by gas, with two very artistic chandeliers hanging from the ceiling, and side lights along the walls. These fixtures were a rich blue in color, and were decorated with solid brass figures of ivy design and winged cherubim. Just before the sermon was begun, at each service the sexton would turn these lights down, in the interest of economy, also giving a "dim, religious light", restful to the eye.

Around the arch over the pulpit was the scripture quotation, "Holiness becometh thine house O-Lord, forever". The windows were of painted cathedral glass of fine design and good coloring, and produced a soft, restful light by day. In the belfry hung the first large bell which the community had known. This bell, weighing over thirteen hundred pounds, was cast in the West Troy foundry of the Meneely Bell Company. An unusually great amount of silver and other alloys was used so that a fine tone could be produced. This great bell was rung for the first time, at four o'clock on the morning of July 4th, 1872. Cast in the face of the bell are the words, "Glory to God in the Highest". The following month, by arrangement with Borough authorities, a town clock was placed in the tower, and so, for all these nearly seventy years, this bell has marked off the hours; has tolled for those who have passed to the great beyond; has called wayward humans to seek a better life; has comforted many of our members lying on beds of sickness and pain; has welcomed the New Year and the return of peace after bitter wars. On a warm, windy, summer night its sweet tones remind one of those deep-toned far-away bells ringing over the gently ruffled waters of lovely Como.

As always, there were some members who were not satisfied, saying the building was placed too near the ground, making it look low. The trustees placed the blame for this, if it were a fault, on Aunt Anna Jackson, who seemed to be known by that name to all, and who insisted that she was tired climbing so many steps, as was the case in the old church at Sixth and Penn Streets.

One of the distinguishing features of the combined chapel and Sabbath School was a bible class room on a balcony at the rear, the walls and ceiling of which were decorated with Bible texts and the ten Commandments in an artistic combination of red and blue in old English letters, the cost of which was defrayed by Mr. J. George Miles.

Following the completion and dedication of the new church and chapel, Rev. Mr. Zahniser continued as pastor until 1875, when, on the 8th of June, after an acceptable pastorate of over 16 years, the relation was dissolved by Presbytery, at his request, and he accepted a call to the church at Conneautville, Erie Presbytery, Pennsylvania. The older members of our Congregation remember well this man, who was greatly beloved by many of his people. When he left the church many of the members, both men and women, wept unashamed over the great loss the church had sustained.

Within the interim after Mr. Zahniser left the church and the calling of the next pastor, Rev. A. Nelson Hollifield, Dr. Wallace and Dr. Wilson, a committee of Presbytery, conducted services, under whose preaching a revival began, which exerted a powerful influence on the whole community, and as the result of which, more than two hundred and fifty accessions to the church took place within the year 1876 and the following meetings conducted by the new pastor.

Rev. Ambrose Nelson Hollifield was unanimously chosen pastor at a Congregational meeting held January 5, 1876, he was released from the charge at Glen More, Chester County, Penna., on the 29th of January, and was installed as pastor of this church on April 17th. Mr. Hollifield was unmarried when he began his pastorate, and from descriptions of some of our members who remember him and from his portrait which appears in this Historical Sketch, he must have been a very personable young man, as well as a forceful preacher. This combination, no doubt created a situation which usually follows such a combination, but Mr. Hollifield solved the problem at an early date by marrying Miss Kate Cochran, one of the many attractive members of his Congregation. At that time the writer was a mere boy, arriving in Huntingdon in 1879 at the age of six. His earliest recollection of Mr. Hollifield, is of a great party held at the parsonage for all the young people of the Congregation, which must have been about 1881. Before starting for the party, I was instructed not to mention the word "refreshments", but remembering a similar experience at a previous social function, I forgot instructions and announced at an early hour that I would like something to eat. This brought results immediately and a fine collation was served.

In addition to being a good preacher, Mr. Hollifield had a keen sense of humor. One of his parishioners was taking him a drive on some of the many beautiful roads of the surrounding country. As the two drove along the parishioner made the remark that "This is certainly a hilly country". "Yes", replied Mr. Hollifield, "it is a hilly country and a hilly people".

In the year 1876, while Mr. Hollifield was pastor, a Directory of the

Congregation, or year book, was published and printed by Lindsay & Willoughby, and which contained a list of officers and members of the Congregation. It also contained a Form of Admission to Church-fellowship, the Baptism of children, memoranda of church regulations, Societies and Committees. The list of members contained about 450 names.

For that year the officers were as follows,—

Pastor, Rev. A. Nelson Hollifield.

Session, Charles H. Miller, Henry Glazier, William P. Orbison, Samuel Brown, William Dorris, G. Barton Armitage, J. R. Simpson. Clerk of Session, G. Barton Armitage.

Trustees, J. Simpson Africa, James A. Brown, William Dorris, George W. Garrettson, John Read, J. Randolph Simpson, R. Milton Speer. Treasurer, J. Simpson Africa.

Deacons, R. A. Orbison, Charles Kershaw, B. Frank Isenberg.

Womens Missionary Society, President, Mrs. Wm. H. Woods, Vice-Presidents, Mrs. David Blair, Mrs. H. S. Wharton, Recording Secretary, Mrs. H. G. Fisher, Cor. Secretary, Mrs. Wm. A. Orbison, Treasurer, Miss Cornelia Weistling.

Ladies Aid Society, President, Mrs. S. T. Brown, Vice Presidents, Mrs. Wm. H. Woods, Mrs. J. Simpson Africa, Mrs. Margaret Anderson.

Secretary & Treasurer, Mrs. William Dorris.

Managers, Mrs. George F. Gage, Mrs. Wm. A. Orbison, Mrs. Ann Massey, Mrs. Sarah Welch, Miss Cornelia Weistling.

The Busy Bees, a society composed of children, in connection with the Ladies Aid Society, Miss Ellie N. Brown (later Mrs. Fred Snare) Sec.

Committees on Church Work

Congregation, Chairman, Mr. R. R. Bryan, Secretary, Thomas C. Fisher.

Strangers, Chairman, Hugh Lindsay, Secretary, W. K. Crites.

Sociality, Chairman, C. C. North, Secretary, Mrs. H. S. Wharton.

Prayer Meeting, Chairman, James R. Patton, M. D., Secretary, Mrs. Henrietta Jackson.

Sabbath Schools,

Church Schools, Superintendent, William P. Orbison, Asst. Supt. Wm. Dorris, Librarian, Alexander Elliott, Asst. Lib., James R. Patton, M. D., Sec. & Treas. Lawrence L. Brown.

West Huntingdon Mission School, 15th & Washington Sts.

Organized, June 20, 1874.

Superintendent, James A. Brown, Asst. Supt., Samuel W. Collom,

Librarian, Charles Kershaw, Sec., Alex. Kennedy, Jr.

Treas., Homer W. Buchanan, D. D. S.

Colored Mission School, Sixth & Moore Sts.

Supt. J. Randolph Simpson, Asst. Supt., Wm. H. Woods.

Lib. Sec. & Treas. B. Frank Isenberg.

In this year book also appears a resolution regarding free pews, which was adopted on July 9, 1873, just before the new Church was completed. **Resolved**, 1st. That the pews in the Presbyterian Church

at Huntingdon shall be open and free, and all who desire to hear the word of God read and expounded are cordially invited to enter and occupy them.

2nd. As it is believed that it will conduce to the good order and comfort of the congregation, it is recommended to heads of families and other members of the congregation to endeavor to have the members of the families habitually in the same pew and as much together as possible, in subordination, however, always to the leading idea, that the pews are unsold and free to whomsoever may come and choose to occupy.

At this time, the Choir was in the rear of the Auditorium, occupying the space of about the last six pews in the middle block. A platform covering this space was elevated about eighteen inches above the main floor. The organ was a cabinet size, with several special stops, and was played by Mr. Frank Cremer, who was organist for many years. The Choir of those days included, Mrs. M. F. Fisher, Mrs. George F. Gage, Miss Clara McMurtrie, Miss Minnie McCahan, Miss Fannie Gage, Mr. S. R. Shumaker, Mr. John D. Dorris, Mr. James A. Brown, who beat time with the organ; Irvin Kuntzman, Dr. R. R. Weistling, with others assisting on special occasions.

At a meeting of Presbytery held March 1, 1882, Mr. Hollifield was released from his charge to enable him to accept a call to the Grand Avenue Church in St. Louis, Missouri and on the following Sabbath he preached his farewell sermon. During his pastorate of six years, more than three hundred names were added to the membership of the church.





REV. A. N. HOLLIFIELD, D. D.
REV. GEO. W. ZAHNISER

REV. LOWMAN P. HAWES
REV. JOHN JOHNSTON
REV. D. K. FREEMAN, D. D.

REV. O. O. McCLENN, D. D.
REV. JOHN PEEBLES

PASTORS, HUNTINGDON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1790 — 1907

CHAPTER V

Rev. David Kerr Freeman, pastor of the Hyde Park church of Scranton, Penna., was chosen to fill the vacancy at a Congregational meeting held on Monday evening, May 2nd and the officers of the Church were instructed to make out and present a formal call. The call was accepted and in the latter part of June he removed his family to Huntingdon and at once entered upon the pastoral labors in his new field. On the evening of November 22nd., Mr. Freeman was formally installed, Reverends J. J. Coale, William Laurie, Samuel W. Moore and William Prideaux conducting the exercises.

Under the pastorate of Dr. Freeman, the church prospered in every way. In the early years of his pastorate, a plot of ground at the corner of 12th and Washington Sts., was donated to the Congregation by Col. Wm. Dorris and a new chapel was built at a cost of \$2500 for the use of the West Huntingdon Sabbath School, which, since 1874 had been meeting in the building at the corner of Fifteenth and Washington Streets. The next important event in its history was the celebration of the Centennial anniversary, in 1889. In preparation for the celebration, the church building was thoroughly renovated and a new pipe organ was installed. The new organ, made by Hook and Hastings of Boston, was placed in the south-west corner of the auditorium, and the choir loft built in front of the organ.

In the hand-writing of Rev. D. K. Freeman, in the minutes of the Session, the following account of the Centennial Celebration of the Church on July 6th, 1889 is found.

“The Centennial anniversary of the organization of the church was observed on Saturday, July 6th, and the services continued through the following Sabbath. Extensive preparations had been made for the event. A standing debt of \$4800 had been canceled. The chapel had been tastefully fitted up with stained glass windows, the elegant gift of Col. Dorris, frescoing, carpet and seats at an expense of over \$1000. The Church had been thoroughly repaired, with substantial slate roof, had been elegantly frescoed, supplied with a fine pipe organ, cushions re-upholstered, new carpet, at an outlay of about \$8000, making the church thus completed one of the most commodious, substantial and beautiful church edifices in the State.

The Centennial exercises consisted of an Historical sermon by the pastor, an address written just before his death by Rev. G. W. Zahniser, former pastor and read by Col. William Dorris; a memorial address by Rev. D. H. Barron; an address on his own pastorate by Rev. A. Nelson Hollifield; a congratulatory address by Rev. J. R. Davies of Tyrone, Penna. A letter was also heard from Dr. O. O. McClean, regretting his inability to be present, having been pastor of the church from 1854 to 1859, an address by the Hon. John Scott, former elder, on the Origin of Presbyterianism in this Valley, showing from historical records, that Presbyterian ministers preached at Huntingdon, then Standing Stone, as early as 1756. An address giving the recollections of the church in former years, by Mr. Wm. P. Orbison senior elder

at the present time. Mr. Orbison stated that he had personally seen all the pastors of the Church including Rev. John Johnston, first pastor.

Communion Services were held on Sabbath morning. Addresses were made by the present pastor (Dr. Freeman), Rev. Wm. Prideaux and Mr. Hollifield. In the afternoon the Sabbath Schools were addressed by Hon. John Scott and Governor James A. Beaver. The services were closed with sermon on Sabbath evening by Mr. Hollifield. A pleasant feature connected with this closing service was the Union Meeting with the other churches of the town, the pastors and people of the Methodist, Baptist, Lutheran and German Reformed churches closing their houses of worship and meeting with us in our Centennial worship and rejoicing.

J. R. Simpson and James S. Woods, superintendents, respectively, of the Sabbath Schools in the Church and in West Huntingdon each presented a brief history of the School over which he presides.

With the Sabbath evening service, closed one of the most successful and enjoyable occasions ever witnessed in the history of the church during the century."

Miss Peebles, grand-daughter of Rev. John Peebles, second Pastor of the church was guest soloist at this celebration.

The stained glass windows placed in the chapel, referred to in the foregoing, were not only given by Col. Dorris, but were made by him, with the help of his daughters Misses Anne, later Mrs. William W. Chisolm, and Julia. For a year or more previous to this time, Col. Dorris and Mr. J. C. Blair had conducted a school for the boys of the town, in which they were taught the making of stained glass windows, wood carving by Mr. Wm. Heffner and artistic iron, brass and copper work. At least one of the above windows was made in this school, some of the boys helping in its construction. These four windows are now found, the outside two in each group, on the end walls of the second floor of the Chapel.

Six years later came the Centennial Celebration of Huntingdon Presbytery, which was held in this church on April 9th, 1895. This Centennial Celebration was held under the direction of a Committee of Presbytery, composed of Revs. David H. Barron, D. D., George Elliott and Joseph H. Mathers, D. D. and elders, James A. Beaver and John Clark.

The morning session was presided over by Rev. David H. Barron, Moderator; the Invocation was pronounced by Rev. Sylvester S. Bergen; Rev. D. K. Freeman read the Scripture selections followed by prayer by the Moderator, Dr. D. H. Barron.

The Rev. Joseph Hutchison Mathers, D. D., then delivered the Centennial sermon, after which the Rev. Richard Morrow Campbell, led in prayer.

The afternoon session convened at 2 P. M., Rev. Andrew H. Parker led in prayer after which Rev. Joseph C. Kelly delivered an address on "Fragments that Remain"; David Walker Woods, Esq. delivered an address on "The Sources of Presbyterianism in Huntingdon Presbytery"; Hon. Augustus S. Landis delivered an address on "The Bench and Bar During the Past Century, as Viewed from the Presbyterian Standpoint".



ELDERS

G. M. McALEVY
S. T. BROWN
C. R. McCARTHY

W. P. ORBISON

W. B. McCARTHY
WM. DORRIS
J. R. SIMPSON

The evening session convened at 7 P. M. In the absence of the Moderator, Rev. J. H. Mathers presided. Prayer was offered by Rev. Robert M. Wallace, which was followed by an address by Rev. J. P. E. Kumler, D. D. on "The Debt and Duty of Presbyterians". Succeeding this the Rev. Samuel A. Mutchmore, DD, LLD., Moderator of the General Assembly delivered an address on "The Oddities and Sublimities of Presbyterians".

Gen. James A. Beaver, late Governor of Pennsylvania, addressed the Presbytery on "The Outlook", followed by an address by Hon. John Scott of Philadelphia, formerly of Huntingdon on "Presbyterian Influence".

The Centennial Hymn, composed by Rev. D. K. Freeman was sung, after which the Rev. S. S. Gibson, editor of the Presbyterian Banner of Pittsburgh, made the brief closing address. Rev. Robert F. Wilson, in the absence of Rev. Robert Hamill, DD., offered the concluding prayer. The benediction was pronounced by Rev. James P. Hughes in the absence of Rev. Wm. Prideaux, named in the program. All these addresses, sermons, etc. can be found in the Memorial Volume published by Presbytery in connection with the Centennial Celebration.

In the year 1899, the three windows in the upper rear wall of the auditorium were replaced by Col. William Dorris, with beautiful new windows, which he had made. During the same year a debt of \$4800, which had been accumulating over a period of years was entirely paid, as a result of the generous offer of Mrs. William E. McMurtrie, to give one thousand dollars, provided the balance was raised before July 1st, of that year, which was easily done, and the church was again free of debt. A few years previous to that time, July, 1889, Major David McMurtrie had cancelled notes to the amount of \$2400, which he held against the Congregation.

On March 10, 1903, Miss Charlotte Robinson, a member of the Congregation presented securities to the amount of one thousand dollars for the purchase of a new steam heating plant which replaced the old hot-air furnaces which had become obsolete. Shortly after the installation of this new plant the water leaked out of the boiler, which became red hot, igniting the timbers of the ceiling in the cellar, threatening the building with destruction. Fortunately the fire was discovered in an early stage and the disaster was averted.

On January 15, 1905 individual Communion Cups were used for the first time.

In February, 1907, a memorial bronze tablet was placed in the auditorium in memory of Rev. John Johnston, by a lineal descendant, Mrs. Linn Johnston Crawford.

During the fall of 1906, Dr. Freeman began to show evidences of weariness in the task of the pastorate. One Sunday morning, in the midst of the service, he fainted in the pulpit. Restoratives were administered, but, after the pastor had been taken to his home, Rev. Wm. Prideaux, looking like the Prophet Zephaniah, went into the pulpit and preached a sermon over an hour long. On Feb. 24, 1907, Dr. Freeman preached his last sermon, passing away after a lingering illness on June 10th of that year. Dr. Freeman was a fine preacher, devoted in every way to the duties of his pastorate. He was a great reader and student, but was always present in the homes of his people when needed. Many times he spoke of his trepidation, when he, for the first time as pastor, faced the rows of pews, with fine looking men and women and their families facing him, wondering how he could hold them. Mrs. Freeman, a most lovable woman and devoted wife was a great help in his pastoral work, and is held in loving memory by all those who knew her. Many of the

present members can call to mind how Mrs. Freeman would play the piano and the two would sing together at the social meetings of the Young People. During Dr. Freeman's pastorate the first Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor was organized by him, and the training received at those meetings is still an influence in the life of the Church.

RESOLUTIONS, Adopted at a meeting of the Session of the Presbyterian Congregation on July 7, 1907, all members being present;—

"WHEREAS, Our Heavenly Father has taken to his heavenly home the beloved pastor of this church, Rev. David Kerr Freeman, D. D., who had for a quarter of a century stood in the pulpit and preached with unwavering earnestness the everlasting Gospel of glad tidings and salvation from sin. The Session of the Church here record the deep sorrow pervading the heart of the Congregation in the death of one greatly beloved, and the whole community mention fervently the quiet dignity and the high standing that characterized the whole period of his dwelling in Huntingdon."

"Dr. Freeman was born at Blairstown, New Jersey, October, 1830, graduated with honors at Lafayette College in 1856; entered the ministry in 1860; became the pastor of this Congregation, July 7, 1882 and died June 7th, 1907. He was an earnest and eloquent preacher of the Gospel, with a distinct magnetism that continued through the whole of the twenty-five years that he preached in Huntingdon. Possessing a logical mind and a remarkable memory, and being a close student of secular and ecclesiastical history, as well as the best literature in all departments of thought, he constantly drew from a wonderful store of knowledge, so that his sermons were marked by apt illustration, clear logic and beauty of diction and rhetoric."

"In the broader activities of the church he loved, Dr. Freeman manifested a deep and special interest in Presbyterian Mission work, and by his counsel and untiring efforts contributed much toward the great success of that work in this Presbytery. In fact, he will be greatly missed from all the higher councils of the Church, in whose deliberations he participated with distinguished ability."

"Dr. Freeman was not distinctly a revivalist but deemed the earnest presentation of the truth all that was necessary for the building up of the Church; and while, during his pastorate there were no specially large accessions, the strength of the Church was well maintained and we bear record that the preaching was faithful and earnest. May the seed sown by his voice and life bring to the Church a continued and abundant harvest."

"We record here, also, the great assistance to Dr. Freeman and his work of his beloved wife, who was always ready for every good work; who taught in the Sunday School, conducted the missionary meetings, visited the homes of the people and gave her cultivated voice in the music of the Sunday School and Church throughout the years. We record also the help for many years given by his daughters, Cordelia and Anna in the music of the Church and in the Sunday School."

"The Session of the Church record the unfailing courtesy and kindness of Dr. Freeman whenever he met any of his people and in the meetings of the Session."

"He fought a good fight; he kept the faith, he died the death of the righteous, and henceforth there is laid up for him the crown of victory and the joys of the Heavenly Home, the Church and the people of the Community mourn with his widow and children in the death of one very greatly respected and loved."

CHAPTER VI

Following the death of Dr. Freeman, on February 24, 1907, at a Congregational meeting a call was extended to Rev. Richard P. Daubenspeck of Apollo, Penna., and was accepted. He was installed as pastor on Nov. 29, 1907. Rev. H. M. Campbell of Mount Union, Penna. preached the sermon, Rev. R. A. Hunter of Birmingham gave the charge to the Pastor, and Rev. W. L. McClure gave the charge to the Congregation. Dr. Daubenspeck entered upon the

work of his new charge with vigor, and the Congregation, which numbered 304 members at that time continued to grow. He initiated and taught three different classes in a four-year course of Bible Study using the Westminster Normal Quarterly. Each winter revival services were held and many members were added to the roll.



THE BURNING SPIRE—MARCH 18, 1910

age. On the same day the Trustees held a meeting and offered to the Methodist Congregation the use of our auditorium for worship until arrangements could be made to replace their Church building.

Immediately plans were made to repair the damage caused by the fire. In discussing these plans it became evident that many members thought this a good time to consider replacing the Chapel with a new, modern Sunday

On the night of March 18th, 1910 a disastrous fire, which originated in a planing mill just across the street completely destroyed the comparatively new Methodist Episcopal Church on the opposite corner. The graceful spire of the Presbyterian Church was ignited and burned to ashes, for a time threatening destruction of the entire building. However the fire was brought under control without causing other serious dam-

School Building and on March 1, 1911 this new building was authorized. On March 2, a contract was entered into with J. C. Hall, a member of the Congregation, for repairs to the spire, and church building, and for the construction of the new Sunday School and Chapel building, at a cost of \$16,193.13.

On Sunday, April 9, 1911 the last services were held in the old Chapel. A Sunday School Memorial Service was held at 12. Noon, with appropriate exercises, presided over by the Superintendent, Charles L. Reed. The Young Peoples Society of Christian Endeavor held its service at 6:30 in the evening with Forrest Jackson as leader. The last Prayer meeting in the old chapel was held on Wednesday evening, April 5th, with Dr. Daubenspeck in the pulpit, whose address was on Missions. On Monday, April 10th, dismantling of the old Chapel was begun. During the erection of the new Chapel and Sunday School building, it was decided, that, the West Huntingdon Chapel be closed, as a number of churches of other denominations had been built in West Huntingdon, since the beginning of the work of the Presbyterians in that part of town and the necessity of continuance of this work had declined, that school to join the main Sabbath School after completion of the new building. A Committee from the Board of Trustees was appointed, consisting of the President J. E. Smucker, Thomas F. Bailey and Charles L. Reed, to make disposal of the West Huntingdon Chapel. After considerable negotiation the old Chapel was sold on December 11, 1912 to the Huntingdon Bank Book Co., for \$1,300, which amount was placed in the new Chapel building fund.

The Board of Trustees, consisting of J. E. Smucker, Thomas F. Bailey, C. M. Taylor, S. G. Rudy, L. R. Brown, Charles L. Reed, Theodore C. Jackson, Secretary, acted as the Building Committee, with Dr. Daubenspeck as an ex-officio member. The new building was completed, practically as it now stands, and was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies on April 7th, 1912. While this work was being done, money was contributed by members of the Congregation and the memorial window to Dr. and Mrs. Freeman was placed in the auditorium. The complete cost of Chapel and furnishings was about \$21,000. On the day of dedication an unpaid balance of \$5,794.25, later increased to \$6,012.75 was raised and the building dedicated free of debt.



CHAPTER VII

Following dedication of the new Sabbath School and Chapel the Church continued to make progress during the next few years, with a number of interesting events recorded in the minutes of the Session and the Trustees.

On the minutes of the Session dated October 24, 1915 is found the following statement,

"Theodore C. Jackson's entire Sunday School class, consisting of the following boys admitted into membership of the Church, Gordon B. Miller, Whitney C. Lewis, Charles Herbert Jackson, H. David Quinter, William Howard Lewis, Gerald B. Rudy, Davis Zeigler Lewis, Richard N. Corbin."

In November, 1918, the Endowment Fund of the Church was started.

In October, 1919, the E. McC. Africa Endowment Fund of \$5,000 was established by bequest in his will.

In October, 1919, the New Era Bible Class was organized, which has continued ever since under the leadership of Hon. Thomas F. Bailey, and efficient organized officers. In 1919 John D. Dorris placed the memorial window in the auditorium in memory of his father Col. William Dorris, and his mother Mrs. Elizabeth Davidson Dorris.

At a meeting of the congregation held on June 21, 1921, it was decided to re-decorate the Church auditorium and make such other changes as were deemed necessary, and a Committee was appointed to undertake the work. The Committee consisted of Watson D. Willoughby and Arthur W. Reed from the Trustees, James S. Woods and W. R. Banks from the Session and Miss Anna Fisher and Charles L. Reed from the Congregation. Charles L. Reed was elected Chairman to oversee the work.

After the work was decided upon, Mrs. J. C. Blair, Mrs. Margaret F. Fisher and Miss Anna Fisher, advised the Committee of their intention to present a new Pipe Organ to the Church. They contracted for the new organ with the Hook & Hastings Company of Boston, makers of the first pipe organ in the Church, the new organ to cost \$15,000. The installation of this new organ necessitated numerous changes in the re-decoration plans, and resulted in laying of the new machanite floor, new indirect lighting fixtures, entire change in location of the choir to its present location in rear of the pulpit with the console placed as it is now located. At the suggestion of the Committee, Mrs. J. C. Blair donated to the Church, entire new seating arrangement of the pulpit as it now exists. C. M. Taylor and Geo. W. Fisher presented the hymn boards, W. B. Simpson and Forrest Jackson the pulpit stands, and Mrs. M. F. Fisher and Miss Anna had all the cushions of the church re-covered with brown velour to correspond with the decorations.

Miss Clara McMurtrie, presented a beautifully carved walnut baptismal Font in memory of her father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. McMurtrie, which corresponds with the other woodwork and completes the Church furnishings as we now have them.

The re-dedication services of the completely renovated auditorium and of the new organ were held on Sunday, October 29, 1922. Dr. Robert E. Speer preached at both morning and evening services and fine musical programs were rendered by the choir and organist, Miss Margaretta Robb, the latter assisted by George McLeod, of Pittsburgh, nephew of Miss Nannie E. Jackson. On Monday evening a recital was also given by George McLeod. For a

number of years afterward recitals were given on the organ by such men as Ralph Kinder of Philadelphia, Marcel Dupre of Paris, Charles Courboin of Belgium, Minor Coe Baldwin of London and other noted artists. Later Miss Anna Fisher installed a fine harp stop in the organ in memory of her mother, Mrs. Margaret F. Fisher.

On February 10, 1924, Presbytery undertook to provide funds for the establishment of a Home for Presbyterian women at Hollidaysburg, and a committee in our Congregation was appointed to co-operate in this work. As a result a large amount of money was subscribed by members of the congregation totaling more than \$15,000 and the Congregation has always evidenced its interest in this worthy cause, both in representation on the Men's and Women's Boards and in liberal financial and moral support.

On June 1, 1925, the Congregation adopted the new Pension Fund Plan and since that time has contributed to the support of the plan, which provides a pension to the pastor upon retirement. This Church co-operated with the other churches of the Presbytery and of the whole country in raising the \$15,000,000 fund for putting the Pension Plan in operation and gave over \$10,000.00 to that fund.

In the Fall of 1927, on October 31, the Congregation entertained Dr. Robert E. Speer and wife, who was then Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A., at a reception and banquet given in his honor in the Church. Many visitors from the Presbytery and elsewhere, including Dr. Hugh T. Kerr of the Shadyside Church and Dr. Edward Clarence McCartney of the 1st Church of Pittsburgh, were in attendance and the whole program was carried out in a most creditable manner. Dr. Speer responded in his inimitable manner to the greetings of the Congregation and visitors.

In October of the year 1932, the Congregation celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of Dr. Daubenspeck's pastorate with a reception in the Church, which was attended not only by the members of the Congregation, but by representatives of the other Churches of the Community, organizations and members of Presbytery. On Sunday evening, Oct. 30, addresses were made by representatives of the Huntingdon Ministerium, Sabbath School and Teachers, a representative of Huntingdon Presbytery, a representative of the J. C. Blair Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees, the New Era Bible Class, Session and Board of Trustees. On the following Wednesday evening, November 2nd, the reception was held in the church with a fine program and music followed by a social hour which was greatly enjoyed by the large number of people present.

On July 3rd, 1936 the church building was again threatened with destruction, when the spire was struck by lightning during a heavy electrical storm but fortunately the damage was slight.

In the fall of 1936 Dr. Daubenspeck began to show signs of approaching illness, later becoming so much affected that he was forced to give up preaching, and underwent a serious operation. From Nov. 8th, until the spring of 1937, guest ministers filled the pulpit and from April until in the early fall, Dr. Daubenspeck was able to give part time service to the Church. On September 22, 1937 a Congregational meeting was called to act upon his request for dissolution of the Pastoral relationship. At this meeting the following RESOLUTIONS, were adopted.



REV. R. P. DAUBENSPECK
PASTOR 1907—1937

"Thirty years ago the long pastorate of Dr. Freeman in this church came to an end by his death; and a young minister, then in his first charge, was called to the pulpit. He has now asked the dissolution of his Pastoral relations with this church taking effect the last day of October next. The Session of the Church desiring to have placed on the records some of the salient accomplishments of those thirty years and to record its appreciation of the long and notable service rendered by Dr. Daubenspeck to the Church and the Community, appointed a Committee to draft Resolutions which are here presented:—"

"The thirty years just passed have been critical ones in the World's history; they cover the growth of the automobile industry, air travel, mass production, the World War and the boom years and depression that came in its train; Prohibition and repeal and the rise of dictatorships, some of which have resorted to persecution of the Church of God. Through all these troublous years the Presbyterian Church of Huntingdon has kept steadily on its course, an united church without schism or faction, not moved by the wild currents of World affairs nor carried about with every wind of doctrine; and this is a tribute to the strength of the hand that has been at the helm."

"When Dr. Daubenspeck came to Huntingdon the church numbered 304 communicants. It has enjoyed a continuous growth and now has on its rolls 652 members. During his incumbency Dr. Daubenspeck has preached approximately 2500 regular sermons, besides speaking at about 1200 Prayer-meetings. In all these years until his recent illness, almost never has he been prevented by sickness from performance of his full duties."

"From the earliest years of the Borough this Church has been most active in the charitable work of the Community and as was fitting, Dr. Daubenspeck has been a leader in all efforts for the betterment of the poor, the sick and the unfortunate. Therefore, be it,"

"RESOLVED,—That this Congregation record its appreciation of the long, faithful and consistent service of its retiring pastor and wish him a long and happy life in the retirement he has so richly earned."

Sept. 22, 1937.

Roberts D. Royer,
Warren B. Simpson,
Committee.

After unanimous adoption of the above Resolutions, the resignation of Dr. Daubenspeck was accepted, to take effect on the 31st of October. The Congregation elected the following Committee consisting of Forrest Jackson, Charles L. Reed, George Laity, S. C. Postlethwaite, E. E. Sanford and Richard M. Simpson to convey to the next meeting of Presbytery the action of Pastor and Congregation and ask for dissolution of the pastoral relation. This Committee attended to that duty at the meeting of Presbytery, held at Port Royal on October 5, 1937, following which Presbytery concurred in the request. Resolutions similar to the above, were presented to Presbytery by Rev. Harold T. Smith and unanimously adopted.

On Sunday, October 31st, Dr. Daubenspeck preached his farewell sermon and retired from the pastorate of the Congregation. He and Mrs. Daubenspeck removed to their recently purchased home at Eighteenth and Washington Streets. However, he was unable to enjoy for long the retirement he had so justly earned, for his health declined rapidly and on Dec. 6th, of that year he passed away.

Funeral services were held in the Church auditorium conducted by Rev. W. L. McClure his friend for many years. He was assisted by Rev. Walter Ritter, Ph. D., of the Altoona First Church, Rev. Maurice Leister of Burnham, Rev. Joseph Speer of Tyrone, Rev. Ralph W. Illingworth of Hollidaysburg, Rev. Hobart D. McKeehan of the Huntingdon Ministeriam. Pall bearers were Roberts D. Royer, Wm. R. Banks, Charles E. Horton, T. S. Bratton, Charles L. Reed, George Mark and John M. Smucker. Included as honorary pall bearers were members of the Ministerium, the remaining members of the official bodies of Dr. Daubenspeck's own church and ministers of Huntingdon Presbytery.

Rev. Richard Perry Daubenspeck, D. D., was born March 25, 1869 near Butler, Penna., a son of George and Elizabeth (Perry) Daubenspeck. After leaving the Public School he entered Grove City College from which he was graduated in 1893, and from Western Theological Seminary of Pittsburgh in 1896. His first pastorate was in the Presbyterian Church of Apollo, Pa. While he was pastor a fine new church building was erected.

In 1907 he was extended a call from the church at Huntingdon and entered upon his pastoral duties here on Nov. 1, of that year, and remained in continuous service for thirty years, until his resignation as of Oct. 31, 1937. During these thirty years he was the recipient of many honors, both in the local Community and in other fields. He served as Moderator of the Synod of Pennsylvania in 1912. He was elected a Trustee of the J. C. Blair Memorial Hospital of Huntingdon and was active in its work and interests. On the establishment of the Presbyterian Home in Hollidaysburg, he was made a Trustee and helped greatly in establishing the Home on a firm foundation, and helped in its successful administration. In 1910 he was Moderator of Huntingdon Presbytery. In 1908 he was honored by his Alma Mater, Grove City College with the degree of Doctor of Divinity and was the youngest man ever to receive this degree from that Institution. In 1911 he was delegate from Huntingdon Presbytery to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A. at Atlantic City and again delegate to the General Assembly in 1927, which meeting was in San Francisco.

He was united in marriage with Wilhelmina Williams, of Grove City in 1890, who with three sons, Loyal D., Richard and George survive. During his long pastorate Mrs. Daubenspeck took an active interest in the Missionary organizations of the church, especially the Womans Home and Foreign Missionary Society, of which she was President for many years.

CHAPTER VIII

During the illness of Dr. Daubenspeck and up to the time of his passing, many ministers, possible candidates had filled the pulpit, and others followed up until March, 1938. On the evening of March 23rd, at a Congregational meeting called for the purpose of electing a new pastor, Rev. John Thompson Peters, pastor of the church at McVeytown was elected and a Committee elected to present a formal call to him to become pastor. The call was accepted and on May 3rd, Mr. Peters moved to Huntingdon and occupied the parsonage, which, in the meantime had been thoroughly repaired and renovated at a cost of over \$2,000. The Board of Trustees, acting as the repair committee was assisted in the work by an additional committee from the Congregation, consisting of Miss Anna Fisher, Miss Clara McMurtrie and Mrs. David Ramey Patton. The entire amount to cover these repairs was in hand before completion of the work, so that no debt ensued.

The installation service was held on May 12, 1938. The meeting was presided over by Rev. Edward H. Jones, pastor of the Presbyterian Church of State College. The principal address was made by Rev. Dr. Hugh Thompson Kerr of the Shadyside Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh. The invocation was pronounced by Rev. Charles W. Maclay, pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Philipsburg, Pa. The scripture lesson was read by Rev. Harold G. Keen, pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Mount Union, Pa., who followed the reading with prayer.

The charge to the Pastor was delivered by Rev. Dr. Stuart Nye Hutchison, Pastor of the East Liberty Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh, Pa. and the charge to the Congregation was delivered by Rev. Henry A. Riddle pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Lewistown, Penna. The service was very interesting and impressive and was attended by a large assemblage of Congregation and visitors.

A reception of welcome was also tendered the Pastor and Mrs. Peters to welcome them to the Congregation and give an opportunity for all to meet them personally.

The new pastor entered with vigor upon the labors of his new field. Since then many new plans have been launched, especially a number of activities primarily in the interest of young people. Many young people of the Community have been attracted to these young peoples meetings and nearly one hundred new members have been added to the church roll which now numbers 648 active members with 58 on the reserved roll.

Rev. John Thompson Peters is a graduate of Lafayette College and of Western Theological Seminary, his first pastorate being in the McVeytown Church. While there he spent one year at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland and this year he again spent three months at the same institution at the conclusion of which time he received degrees for which he was working. Mrs. Peters also took courses which will fit her for future work among the young people of the Congregation. Since Mr. Peters' advent into the work of the Congregation, three new elders have been elected, Mr. William J. Sherrard, Mr. Richard M. Simpson and Mr. William Liebig, making twelve elders at the present time.

The future work of the Congregation, under Mr. Peters' vigorous leading promises to keep the Congregation ever in the vanguard of genuine progress and achievement.



C. E. HORTON	W. J. SHERRARD	R. D. ROYER	W. M. LIEBIG
W. B. SIMPSON	R. M. SIMPSON	R. M. NEWCOMBE	T. S. BRATTON
	W. R. BANKS	FORREST JACKSON	
	C. H. SWIGART	S. C. POSTLETHWAITE	

RULING ELDERS

It seems possible that previous to 1850, the Elders and Trustees of the Congregation were the same men, or for at least part of that time. In 1850 the minutes of the Session include the names of only two men as elders. John Kerr and Charles H. Miller but in 1855 when John Scott, William P. Orbison, Samuel T. Brown and Henry Glazier were elected, a minute of Session records that Jacob Miller, an elder since 1825, who had not been serving for a number of years again consented to serve and continued to do so until his death in 1863. An old minute of Session gives the elders in 1825 as Jacob Miller, John Ker and Samuel Steele. Beginning with 1850 records show the elders as follows,—

1825—1850	John Kerr Charles H. Miller (Jacob Miller)
1855, Elected	John Scott William P. Orbison Henry Glazier Samuel T. Brown Jacob Miller
1855, Again Active	J. Randolph Simpson William Dorris G. Barton Armitage
1876, Elected	George M. McAlevy W. B. McCarthy C. R. McCarthy
1894, Elected	Robert A. Orbison James S. Woods C. E. Hooper
1898, Elected	A. J. McCahan J. F. Schock Alexander Elliott S. C. Postlethwaite
1909, Elected	Warren B. Simpson Forrest Jackson Charles E. Horton William R. Banks
1919, Elected	John G. Porter Robert M. Newcombe Christian H. Swigart Roberts D. Royer Thaddeus H. Bratton
1929, Elected	William J. Sherrard Richard M. Simpson William Liebig
1939, Elected	

Some of these men had long years of faithful service to their credit, notably Jacob Miller, who died in 1863 having served thirty-eight years; John Kerr for thirty years; William P. Orbison, who died Feb. 27, 1898, having served forty-three years and who had personal acquaintance with all the pastors from Rev. John Johnston down to Dr. Freeman; Charles H. Miller who served thirty-seven years, thirty as clerk; Henry Glazier for thirty years.

In three months, from Dec. 23rd, 1930 to March 31st, 1931, the Congregation lost three of its most faithful elders, Robert A. Orbison and Clyde E. Hooper who served for 33 years and J. R. Simpson who had served for nearly 55 years. S. C. Postlethwaite, present senior elder has completed thirty years of service. For many years C. E. Hooper served as Stated Clerk of the Session. Since his death Roberts D. Royer has served as Stated Clerk.

BOARDS OF TRUSTEES

A fire in the home of Jacob Miller in 1825 destroyed all previous records of the congregation so a list of Trustees begins with that year.

From 1825 to 1829 the following board held office,

Robert Allison, John Kerr, Wm. Orbison, Wm. Dorris.

1829 the Board was increased to twelve members who served to 1838.

Robert Allison, John Kerr, Wm. Orbison, Wm. Dorris, J. George Miles, James Coffey, Matthew Wilson, James Porter, Wm. Swoope, James Gwin, Wm. Moore, Wm. Simpson.

1838 the Board was reduced to seven members, who served two years.

Wm. Orbison, John Kerr, Wm. Dorris, James Gwin, Thomas Fisher, James Lane, Jacob Fockler.

1840 John Kerr, James Gwin, J. George Miles, James Lane, Charles H. Miller, Robert Stitt, Patrick Lang.

1841 Wm. Swoope, John Kerr, J. George Miles, George Taylor, Wm. Dorris, Henry Glazier, Thomas Fisher.

1842 John Kerr, J. George Miles, John Cresswell, Geo. Taylor, Jacob Fockler, Isaac Dorland, David Blair.

1843 to 1849 John Kerr, J. George Miles, John Cresswell, Geo. Taylor, John Glazier, Thos. P. Campbell, Thomas Fisher.

1850 John G. Miles, John Kerr, Thomas Fisher, Jacob Fockler, James Gwin, Wm. P. Orbison, Charles H. Miller.

1851 to 1859 John Kerr, Pres., Wm. P. Orbison, Secty., John Scott, James Gwin, Jacob Fockler, Charles H. Miller, Samuel Watson.

1860 to 1880 Records missing.

1881 Wm. Dorris, Pres., J. R. Simpson, Secty., J. Simpson Africa, Treas., R. M. Speer, John Read, James A. Brown, Geo. W. Garretson.

1882 Wm. Dorris, Pres., J. R. Simpson, Secty., J. Simpson Africa, Treas., John Read, James A. Brown, Geo. W. Garretson, J. W. Kauffman.

1883 John Read, Pres., John M. Bailey, Secty., J. Simpson Africa, Treas., Wm. Dorris, resigned, J. E. Smucker, elected, J. R. Simpson, resigned, John M. Maguire, elected.

1884 to 1887 Wm. Dorris, Pres., John M. Bailey, Secty., J. Simpson Africa, Treas., J. G. Isenberg, J. E. Smucker, Hugh Lindsay, Wm. H. Woods.

1888 Wm. Dorris, Pres., J. W. Chambers, Secty., Dr. R. R. Weistling, Treas., J. C. Blair, H. G. Fisher, Frank Hefright, Dr. R. Allison Miller.

1889 to 1891 Wm. Dorris, Pres., J. W. Chambers, Secty., Dr. R. R. Weistling, Treas., H. G. Fisher, J. C. Blair, Dr. R. A. Miller, B. F. Isenberg, J. W. Chambers, resigned, Chas. G. Brown, elected, Dr. R. R. Weistling, resigned, A. A. Anderson, elected.

1892 Wm. Dorris, Pres., Chas. G. Brown, Secty., B. F. Isenberg, Treas., Dr. R. A. Miller, J. C. Blair, A. A. Anderson, Harry W. Read.

1893 to 1895 J. C. Blair, Pres., James S. Woods, Secty., B. F. Isenberg, Treas., Wm. Dorris, Dr. R. A. Miller, H. W. Read, W. B. McCarthy.

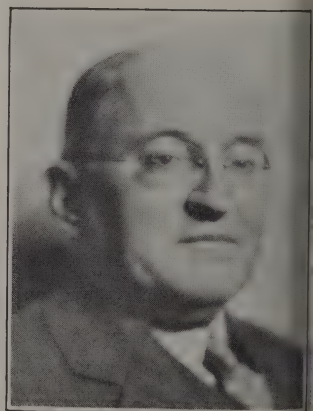
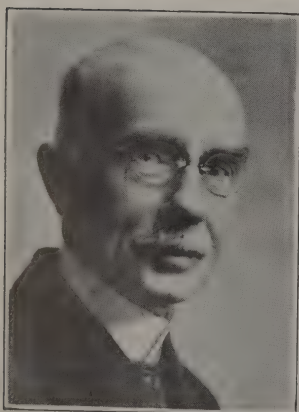
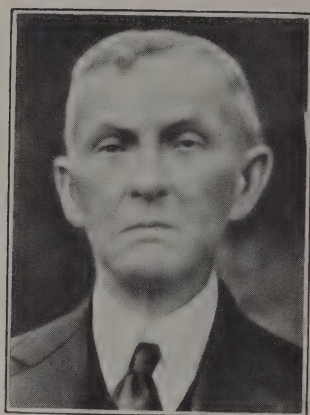
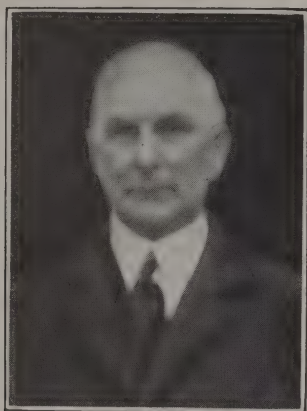
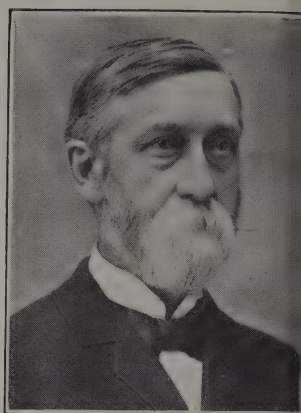
1896 to 1897 Dr. R. A. Miller, Pres., A. Elliott, Secty., B. F. Isenberg, Treas., H. W. Read, W. B. McCarthy, James S. Woods, J. C. Blair.

1898 Dr. R. A. Miller, Pres., R. A. Orbison, Secty., B. F. Isenberg, Treas., Hugh Lindsay, S. R. Shumaker, George F. Gage, C. R. McCarthy. Hugh Lindsay, died, H. W. Read, elected.

1899 to 1902 S. R. Shumaker, Pres., B. L. Simpson, Secty., B. F. Isenberg, Treas., C. R. McCarthy, H. W. Read, J. D. Dorris, J. E. Smucker. B. L. Simpson, resigned, W. B. Simpson, elected Secty.

1903 to 1909 J. E. Smucker, Pres., W. B. Simpson, Secty., B. F. Isenberg, Treas., S. R. Shumaker, H. W. Read, C. R. McCarthy, John D. Dorris. S. R. Shumaker, died, A. Elliott. elected.

- 1910 to 1913 J. E. Smucker, Pres., Theodore C. Jackson, Secty., B. F. Isenberg, Treas., Thomas F. Bailey, Charles L. Reed, J. C. Dimm, L. R. Brown, J. C. Dimm, resigned, C. M. Taylor, elected, B. F. Isenberg, resigned, S. G. Rudy, elected.
Rule adopted dropping two trustees and electing two new ones each year.
- 1914 Charles L. Reed, Pres. Theo C. Jackson, Secty., B. F. Isenberg, Treas., S. G. Rudy, L. R. Brown, Dr. W. C. Wilson, A. S. Mullin, Geo. Laity, C. E. Horton.
- 1915 to 1918 Charles L. Reed, Pres., Theo. C. Jackson, Secty., B. F. Isenberg, Treas., A. S. Mullin, Chas. E. Horton, George Laity, Dr. W. C. Wilson, Thomas F. Bailey, J. Murray Africa, Theo. C. Jackson resigned as Secretary, Dr. W. C. Wilson, elected.
Miss Margaretta Robb, elected Secty., February 5, 1917.
- 1919 Dr. W. C. Wilson, Pres., Thomas F. Bailey, C. E. Horton, George Laity, R. W. Williamson, R. W. Williamson, John D. Dorris, A. S. Mullin, Miss Margaretta Robb, Secty., B. F. Isenberg, Treas.
- 1920 Dr. W. C. Wilson, Pres., Thos. F. Bailey, George Laity, R. W. Williamson, John D. Dorris, W. D. Willoughby, A. S. Mullin, Miss M. Robb, Secty., B. F. Isenberg, Treas.
- 1921 to 1922 John D. Dorris, Pres., R. W. Williamson, W. D. Willoughby, C. H. Whittaker, Arthur W. Reed, Edgar S. Cremer, Miss M. Robb, Secty., John G. Porter, Treas.
- 1923 A. W. Reed, Pres., W. D. Willoughby, E. S. Cremer, C. H. Whittaker, Clarence Schock, R. D. Royer, John G. Porter, Treas., Miss M. Robb, Secty., Miss Helen Porter, Asst. Treas. W. D. Willoughby, resigned, R. M. Newcombe, elected.
- 1924 E. S. Cremer, Pres., C. H. Whittaker, Clarence Schock, R. D. Royer, R. M. Newcombe, R. Allison Miller, John G. Porter, Treas. Miss M. Robb, Secty., Miss Helen Porter, Asst. Treas.
- 1925 E. S. Cremer, Pres., Clarence Schock, R. D. Royer, R. M. Newcombe, R. A. Miller, Robert W. Fleck, George Laity, John G. Porter, Treas. Miss. M. Robb, Secty., Miss Helen Porter, Asst. Treas.
- 1926 R. M. Newcombe, Pres., E. S. Cremer, R. A. Miller, Robert W. Fleck, George Laity, E. E. Sanford, T. S. Bratton, John G. Porter, Treas., Miss M. Robb, Secty., Miss Helen Porter, Asst. Treas.
- 1927 George Laity, Pres., E. S. Cremer, E. E. Sanford, T. S. Bratton, C. M. Taylor, F. B. Isenberg, I. Wallace Fleck, J. G. Porter, Treas., Miss M. Robb, Secty., Mrs. Robert M. Newcombe, Asst. Treas.
- 1928 E. E. Sanford, Pres., T. S. Bratton, C. M. Taylor, F. B. Isenberg, R. W. Fleck, B. R. Hatfield, I. Wallace Fleck, Miss M. Robb, Secty., J. G. Porter, Treas., Mrs. Helen Newcombe, Asst.
- 1929 F. Blair Isenberg, Pres., I. Wallace Fleck, C. M. Taylor, Wm. Liebig, B. R. Hatfield, Fred B. Bayer, R. W. Fleck, Miss M. Robb, Secty., J. G. Porter, Treas., Mrs. H. Newcombe, Asst.
- 1930 B. R. Hatfield, Pres., R. W. Fleck, I Wallace Fleck, Wm. Liebig, F. B. Bayer, L. C. Postlethwaite, R. M. Steel, Miss M. Robb, Secty., J. G. Porter, Treas., Mrs. H. Newcombe, Asst.
- 1931 Wm. Liebig, Pres., F. B. Bayer, R. M. Steel, L. C. Postlethwaite, H. B. Fouse, John M. Smucker, Charles L. Reed.
Miss M. Robb, Secty., J. G. Porter, Treas., Mrs. H. Newcombe, Asst.
- 1932 Charles L. Reed, Pres., R. M. Steel, H. B. Fouse, John M. Smucker, L. C. Postlethwaite, F. A. Douglass, J. A. Grafuis, Miss M. Robb, Secty., J. G. Porter, Treas., Mrs. H. Newcombe, Asst., John G. Porter, died, George Porter, elected Treasurer.
- 1933 Charles L. Reed, Pres., H. B. Fouse, John M. Smucker, F. A. Douglass, J. A. Grafuis, R. W. Fleck, George B. Mark.
Miss M. Robb, Secty., George Porter, Treas., Mrs. H. Newcombe, Asst.
- 1934 R. W. Fleck, Pres., F. A. Douglas, J. A. Grafuis, George B. Mark, R. W. Williamson, Thos. F. Miller, Wm. Liebig.
Miss M. Robb, Secty., George Porter, Treas., Mrs. H. Newcombe, Asst.
- 1935 R. W. Fleck, Pres., C. M. Taylor, Wm. Liebig, R. W. Williamson, Thos. F. Miller, George B. Mark, C. H. Whittaker, Miss M. Robb, Secty., Geo. Porter, Treas.
- 1936 C. H. Whittaker, Pres., R. W. Williamson, Wm. Liebig, T. F. Miller, C. M. Taylor, E. E. Sanford, Charles L. Reed.
Miss M. Robb, Secty., Geo. Porter, Treas.
- 1937 C. H. Whittaker, Pres., John M. Smucker, George B. Mark, C. M. Taylor, F. B. Isenberg, E. E. Sanford, Charles L. Reed.
Miss M. Robb, Secty., Geo. Porter, Treas., resigned, Chas. L. Reed, elected.
- 1938 E. E. Sanford, Pres., George B. Mark, John M. Smucker, Chas. L. Reed, F. B. Isenberg, C. Herbert Jackson, I. Wallace Fleck.
Miss M. Robb, Secty., Charles L. Reed, Treas.
- 1939 F. B. Isenberg, Pres., John M. Smucker, C. Herbert Jackson, I. Wallace Fleck, Geo. B. Mark, T. F. Ransberg, C. B. Miller.
Miss M. Robb, Secty., Charles L. Reed, Treas.



JOHN G. PORTER
C. E. HOOPER
R. A. ORBISON

ELDERS

A. J. McCAHAN

A. ELLIOTT
J. F. SCHOCK
JAS. S. WOODS

LADIES AID SOCIETY

For many years the Ladies Aid Society of the Church has rendered great assistance to the Board of Trustees by contributing time, money and thought toward the improvement of the Church and Manse. Of late years this Society has taken almost complete responsibility for keeping the Manse in repair, except in major cases, and here also they have been of great help. Miss Anna Fisher has been President of the Society for many years, the Treasurer being Miss Minnie Patton. The latter resigned in 1937 and was succeeded by Mrs. R. Allison Miller. The Secretary for many years has been Mrs. C. E. Hooper.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

The music of the Huntingdon Presbyterian Congregation has always been maintained on a high level. With the appointment of Mr. Frank Cremer as organist back around 1880, he was the backbone of the Choir for years. After Dr. Freeman's acceptance of the pastorate his daughter, Miss Cordelia who was a teacher of Music in Scranton, Penna. for many years gave the Choir the benefit of her most valuable help, both in instruction and in actual voluntary choral service. During her period of help, Mr. Tom. Gipple one of her pupils and a member of the Church, came under her influence, became a singer of note, and later the Choral Director, which office he filled until his death in 1927.

Upon the death of Mr. Frank Cremer in 1917 Miss Margaretta Robb was appointed Organist, and after the death of Mr. Gipple in 1927 was also made Choir Director, both of which positions she has filled since those dates. Within the present year Mr. Francis W. Baldwin, Jr., was selected by the Session to fill the position of Director of Music in the musical organizations of the Congregation. Miss Robb continues to efficiently fill the position of organist.

During all these changing years the personnel of the Choir has altered so many times that it would be impossible to even list the names of all these faithful singers, who have given voluntarily of their abilities.



CHAPTER IX

Sunday Schools of the Congregation and Young Peoples Work.

Much of the materials for this Chapter was compiled by Mr. Wm. G. Focht in 1926 for the 83rd anniversary of the founding of our first Sunday School.

Sunday Schools were founded about the year 1781, by Robert Raikes, a printer, in Gloucester, England. The first permanent Sunday School organization in the United States, of which there is authentic record, was the First Day or Sunday School Society formed in Philadelphia in 1791. It was interdenominational, including among others, the Society of Friends or Quakers. Its constitution required that the instruction given in its schools should be "confined to reading and writing from the Bible and such other religious and moral books as the Society may direct".

In the historical writings of Hon. J. Simpson Africa, he states that the first Sunday School organized in Huntingdon was said to have been a Union one started in the old, original Court House about 1822 or 1823, which building stood in the middle of Third Street between Penn and Alleghany Streets. This was only thirteen years after the first Sunday School was established in the Country. This school was under the supervision of Mrs. Letitia Smith, widow of Richard Smith, a son of the founder of the town, assisted by a number of female teachers. When the Methodist Sunday School was organized in 1831, the Union School assumed the Presbyterian name. For several years Mrs. Jane Dorland, John Bracken, Dr. Wm. Yeager, Robert Williams and others acted as Superintendents, without formal election. The pastor of the Presbyterian Church at that time, Rev. John Peebles, who had two charges, could give the school only partial supervision.

In 1843, a meeting of the teachers in the Sabbath School was held in the church and organized by appointing Mr. David Blair, president, and Wm. Dorris, Jr., secretary. It was resolved that a committee of three be appointed to draft a constitution and by-laws for the government of the school, whereupon the Chairman selected Mr. James S. Read, Miss Miles and Miss Allison for that purpose.

On April 16, 1843, the teachers met after school was dismissed, and the committee appointed to draw up the constitution made a report, which was adopted,—

Eight rules for the government of the School were also adopted, number seven being of unusual interest and which reads as follows,—

"It shall be the duty of every teacher to attend punctually, and in case of absence to provide a suitable substitute, or pay a fine of twelve and one-half cents".

June 23, 1843, being provided by the Constitution for the election of officers, the society met and the following were elected;

Superintendent, John G. Miles; Assistant Superintendent, David Blair; Secretary, John S. Lytle; Treasurer, Henry Glazier; Librarians, A. H. Clark and G. Dorsey.

At this time the school numbered about one-hundred and twenty scholars, who were taught by twenty-six teachers, fourteen female and twelve male. The majority of the classes contained only four pupils. The female

teachers were as follows: Miss Miles, Miss Philips, Miss Armitage, Miss E. Cresswell, Miss Clarke, Miss P. Moore, Miss Margaret Whittaker, Miss Lavinia Dorland, Miss Mary Whittaker, Miss McKorkle, Miss Allison, Miss Orbison, Mrs. Luden and Mrs. Bell. The male teachers were: Mr. Wharton, Mr. James Read, Mr. Isaiah Moore, Mr. W. Dorris, Mr. J. D. Lytle, Mr. Samuel Graffius, Mr. George Taylor, Mr. E. V. Everhart, Mr. Wm. Davis, Mr. David Blair, Mr. James Hemphill.

At this meeting the celebration of the Fourth of July was brought up and a committee consisting of Messrs. Benedict, Graffius and Lytle appointed to confer with a similar committee from the Methodist Sunday-School in regard to a union of the societies for a proper observance of the day. On July 2nd, 1843, the committee reported that a union celebration had been agreed upon, and that the school should meet at nine o'clock of said day, and proceed to "The Cottage" where addresses would be delivered by Messrs. A. K. Cornyn, Geo. Taylor and Rev. Dill.

("The Cottage" or "Cypress Cottage Farm", above referred to will be remembered by some of the former members of the school. It was the name of a farm adjoining Huntingdon on the west of Seventh Street, comprising Cypress Island in the Juniata River and that portion of what is now West Huntingdon as far as Thirteenth Street. It was originally the home of Mr. Richard Smith, a son of William Smith, and had a beautiful grove of sycamore trees encircling a portion of it, later known as Burchinell's Grove, where outdoor public meetings and picnics by the various organizations of town were held. In the present writer's time it belonged to the Cottage Planing Mill Co., and was known as "Cottage Grove", and he remembers other Sunday School Picnics held there as late as in Dr. Freeman's pastorate. This beauty spot was destroyed about 1896, when the Penna. Railroad moved their tracks. Previous to that time in 1854 this farm became the property of J. Edgar Thompson, chief engineer of the P. R. R., who had it surveyed and laid off in town lots.)

The next year, 1844, the schools united again for a similar celebration of the National holiday, with a resolution that all refreshments should be in common and that the beverage should be cold water.

June 30, 1844, officers were elected, as follows;—

Superintendent, John G. Miles, assistant superintendent, David Blair; Secretary, T. P. Campbell; Treasurer, T. P. Campbell; Librarians, John Read and J. T. Scott.

June 29, 1845, the day provided for the election of officers, the society met, but deferred action until after the removal of the school to the new church building, erected on the south-west corner of Sixth and Penn Streets, now enclosed in the eight story building of the J. C. Blair Co.

On January 30, 1846, at the meeting of the society the following preamble and resolutions were presented.

"Whereas, our school is now, and has been for some time back, in a low condition, therefore,

"Resolved, that a committee, consisting of Messrs. A. W. Benedict, James S. Reed, James T. Scott and Misses Louisa Orbison, Nannie D. Allison and Sarah D. Peebles be appointed to inquire into the cause or causes of this decline, and to devise some means by which its progress may be arrested; and that said committee be instructed to report on next Sunday evening."

On February 6, 1846, this committee reported that, after much consideration, they found the principal cause of the decline in the school came from the inattention to or disregard of the present constitution and rules adopted for its government. The committee also recommended that the constitution and rules be printed and distributed; also to ascertain if there be any children in the vicinity, who do not attend any school, and to induce all such children to attend.

April, 1848, a communication was read to the school by A. W. Benedict from J. G. Miles acknowledging receipt of resolutions in reference to his services as superintendent, and tendering his thanks, followed by his resignation. In June, 1848, election resulted as follows:

Superintendent, A. W. Benedict; Assistant, J. D. Read. February 27, 1850 A. W. Benedict resigned. June 30th following, elected Superintendent, Jacob Miller; Assistant Charles H. Miller; July 6, 1851, election resulted as follows; Superintendent, Jacob Miller, Assistant, J. A. Hall. June, 1852, Superintendent, Jacob Miller; Assistant, D. Blair. June, 1853, Superintendent, Jacob Miller; Assistant, S. H. Schuyler. June, 1854, Superintendent, Jacob Miller; Assistant, A. W. Benedict. June, 1855, Superintendent, Jacob Miller; Assistant, John Scott. June, 1856—64; Superintendent, Jacob Miller; Assistant, John Scott. June, 1865—69, Superintendent, John Scott; Assistant, Samuel T. Brown. In 1869, Hon. John Scott was elected United States Senator, was compelled to resign, owing to absence from town and Wm. P. Orbison was elected Superintendent, with S. T. Brown, Secretary.

During the above period the following members of the school filled the office of librarian; Charles Gwin, Henry Miller, H. G. Fisher, David Gwin, Henry Gregg, Thomas Moore, Miss S. H. Schuyler, Miss A. M. McDowell, Joseph Morris, W. A. Orbison, G. W. Garretson, Albert Maguire, Thos. A. Fisher, John Maguire and A. Denny.

Mr. Wm. P. Orbison served as Superintendent of the school for a period of seventeen years until 1886. Then Rev. D. K. Freeman, pastor, took charge and conducted the office, assisted by the elders, J. R. Simpson and W. B. McCarthy. Col. William Dorris filled the office of assistant superintendent from 1869 until 1886.

During the incumbency of Mr. Orbison as superintendent, the congregation moved into the present new church edifice. Here the school had a separate building for its use, with a separate room for an adult Bible Class, taught by Col. William Dorris. This building was dedicated, September 10, 1873.

In the Sunday School elders J. R. Simpson and W. B. McCarthy, alternated as superintendent for a number of years with D. S. Drake as assistant, being elected by the Session. Finally in 1906, Mr. Theodore C. Jackson was chosen to lead the school, which he did for two years in a very efficient manner.

Succeeding Mr. Jackson, Charles L. Reed was elected, who in his usual businesslike manner filled the office of superintendent for twelve years. During the term of Mr. Reed, the congregation in 1911 erected the present modern Sunday School building at a cost of \$25,000. This is an ideal building for the purpose, well suited in every way. In 1913, during his incumbency as superintendent, Mr. Reed attended the World Sunday School Convention, in Zurich, Switzerland. Miss Florence McPherran, one of the teachers and several other Huntingdon County Sunday School workers also attended that

Convention. About this time Organized work in Sunday Schools was being stressed by all workers and these new methods were adopted in our Sunday School largely through the interest and efforts of Dr. R. H. Moore, one of our teachers.

In 1919, Mr. William R. Banks was elected and at the time of this celebration, (1926,) continues as Superintendent. At the present time (1926), the school has several adult Bible Classes. The last one organized, largely through the efforts of Mr. Charles E. Horton, is known as the New Era Men's Bible Class, taught by Judge Thomas F. Bailey, with C. F. Zimmerman, Asst. teacher. Organized in 1919, it has steadily grown until there is an enrollment of 122 men. It is undenominational in character and appeals to men not affiliated with any church, members coming from different professions and various walks of life. A male quartette is a feature of the class, and a song service before the lesson is another one. The class is well organized and constantly growing—members and visitors being warmly received. An annual banquet is an attractive feature.

In the last sixty years this school has exerted a great influence in this community. From its members have come a United States Senator, two Representatives in Congress, four President Judges of our County Courts, leading business and professional men, workers in Mission fields, and one whom the town delights to honor, and looks up to with great respect. Reference is made to Dr. Robert E. Speer, Secretary of the Board of Missions of the Presbyterian Church, who enjoys a world-wide reputation in the cause of Missions.

The officers of the school at the present time (1926) are; Superintendent, Wm. R. Banks; Assistant Superintendent, J. R. Howe; Secretary, C. E. Hooper; Assistant Secretary, Paul Fisher; Treasurer, C. E. Horton; Librarian, R. D. Royer; Assistant Librarian, John Newcombe.

The Presbyterian Sunday School has always enjoyed the reputation for contributing largely to Missions. Members of the school show their interest by their acts. On the first Sabbath of August, 1892, Miss Anna Fisher and Miss Mary C. Speer gathered together thirty-six children living in the Stone Creek or eastern section of Huntingdon, and met in the woods of what is now the J. C. Blair Park, and formed a Sunday School. Later in the Fall, when the weather got too cold for these outdoor meetings, the school moved into a room in the home of Mrs. Itinger, where they met during the winter months, returning, when weather permitted, to the woods. Before long the single room became too small for the school and an additional room was secured.

As the school continued to increase in numbers, the founders decided to erect a permanent home for its use. Ground was donated for the purpose by Mr. J. C. Blair near the entrance to Blair Park, and largely with unsolicited contributions of money, labor and materials, the present, beautiful little Chapel was completed and has since been used by the school.

The School was conducted along unsectarian lines, though founded and maintained largely by Presbyterians. For a number of years Mr. J. B. Kunz was Superintendent, who was later succeeded by Charles L. Reed, who served as Superintendent for ten years. The personnel of workers changed through the years, and after the death of Miss Mary C. Speer, Miss Fisher, has continued to sponsor the work. Among the many devoted workers in the School, was Miss Mary Taylor, now deceased, who labored faithfully for a number of years. The good resulting from this school is hard to estimate, as its progressive influence continues.

During the World War, the following members of the School enlisted for service,—Oscar Beck, Samuel Beck, Robert Campbell, Robert Bruce Honstine, David Walters and Joe. Robinson. The latter, Joe. Robinson was the first enlisted man from Huntingdon to make the supreme sacrifice, a telegram received from the War Department by his wife Mrs. Lavinia Robinson, announced that "he had died from a fractured skull while in the line of duty."

Long years of future effort lie ahead of this School, and the permanent good done can never be estimated.

A number of active workers in the School organized a mission in West Huntingdon on May 24, 1874, having one hundred members with James A. Brown as superintendent. After ten years in private dwellings, a Chapel was erected on ground at Twelfth and Washington Streets, donated by Col. Wm. Dorris, which was constantly used until 1911, when the school was consolidated with the parent school.

Among the many persons who labored faithfully for many years in the West Huntingdon Presbyterian Sunday School were Samuel W. Collum, Hugh Lindsay, J. R. Simpson, James A. Brown, and in later years, D. S. Drake, James S. Woods, Dr. R. H. Moore, Charles Kershaw, Alex. Kennedy, Jr., Homer W. Buchanan, Misses Minnie and May Patton, Mrs. W. J. Thomas and a host of others. When the West Huntingdon School was disbanded in 1911 a large Bible Class joined the parent school and still maintains its individuality, as the West Huntingdon Bible Class with Mr. S. C. Postlethwaite as teacher. A number of workers in this mission school are still most faithful and regular in promoting the welfare of our Sunday School, taking great interest in its affairs.

In addition to the above mission schools, two more were organized and conducted by this school. In March, 1876, an organization was effected in the village of Smithfield, on the south side of the Juniata, with G. Barton Armitage as superintendent. From its beginning Mr. A. A. Anderson has been an ardent worker and liberal supporter. Although a Union School it was under the control of the Presbyterian School for many years.

The other school referred to above, was a mission for the colored population, located on the corner of Sixth and Moore Streets. This school for some time met in the old brick Baptist church located at the corner of Seventh and Washington Streets, where the Wagner-Mierley building now stands. Mr. J. R. Simpson served for many years as Superintendent, until the colored people were strong enough to maintain their own church school of which there are now three congregations in the town.

The Sunday School is the greatest asset of any denomination, and has been well designated as "the nursery of the church", affording an opportunity for devoted and consecrated workers to put forth their best efforts to aid in the extension of the Master's Kingdom. With a record such as this school possesses, why should it not go forward, increasing in numbers, power and influence, shedding its light around about, so others may see the results and share in its rewards.

Since the above was written by Mr. Focht in 1926, the Sunday School, has continued to grow in numbers and efficiency.

In 1927 the Session elected as superintendent, Mr. C. H. Swigart, who continued to serve until 1936.

In 1937, the Session elected Mr. Richard M. Simpson, superintendent, who continues to serve at this time.

The other officers of the school for the year 1939 are as follows,— C. Herbert Jackson, Asst. Superintendent; James Thompson, Asst. Superintendent; Gerald Bange, Secretary; Leroy Moyer, Asst. Secretary; Charles E. Horton, Treasurer; Miss Mary Hooper, Supt. Sr. Young Peoples Dept; Mrs. James Ulsh, Supt. Intermediate Dept.; Mrs. Clarence P. Dick, Supt. Junior Dept.; Miss Lucy Read, Supt. Primary Dept.; Mrs. Frank Greenleaf, Supt. Cradle Roll; Mrs. Cyrus A. Schoch, Supt. Home Department.

The present membership of the school is 396, with an excellent corps of officers and teachers. There are three Organized Bible Classes, the New Era Class for Men led by Hon. Thomas F. Bailey; the West Huntingdon Bible Class for men and women led by Mr. S. C. Postlethwaite and a Women's Bible Class led by Mrs. E. E. Sanford. The Westminster Class organized and taught by Miss Mary Wallace, now taught by Mrs. Earl Dubbel is one of the most active and interested organizations of the School and Congregation. Well organized Home Department and Cradle Roll Department are also parts of the School.

In addition to the work of the Church Sabbath School and Missionary Societies, much work has been done by Young People's Societies. In the early years after the establishment of the Christian Endeavor movement, Dr. Freeman organized a Christian Endeavor Society. This Society was very active and gave early impulse to the young people of the Congregation. Many of the present elders, former elders and active women workers in the Congregation can trace the fruitful results of their lives to the influence of this early society. Later this work declined in interest, but was revived a number of years ago, and now is one of the most potent influences in the life of the Church. With the coming of Rev. Mr. Peters to the pastorate of the Congregation, the work among young people has taken on increased activity. Miss Mary Hooper as Young Peoples Advisor, works under direction of a Church Council of Christian Education, composed of the following members,—

Mrs. W. J. Sherrard, Pres.	C. E. Horton	Miss Lucy Read
C. H. Jackson, V. Pres.	Wm. R. Banks	George Porter
Marshall Showalter, Sec.	Mary E. Hooper	R. M. Simpson, (Ex. Of.)
S. C. Postlethwaite	Mrs. James F. Ulsh	Rev. John T. Peters, (Ex. Of.)

A complete list of the present officers of all the church organizations will be found on a later page.



CHAPTER X

MISSIONS

The Huntingdon Presbyterian Congregation has always been a strong Missionary organization. Among the earliest records of the Session are found motions proposing contributions to both the Home and Foreign Mission Boards, as well as to the later Boards of the Church as they were organized.

The writer of these words received his first missionary education, along with scores of other boys and girls of the Congregation in the Lily of the Valley Mission Band which was organized about 1880 by Mrs. Wm. H. Woods, and which met at her home at Tenth and Washington Streets. This organization had a social as well as missionary back ground and held this youngest group of mission workers together for a number of years. As the boys and girls grew older the name did not seem to fit, so the group was divided into two groups, the Onward Band for boys, the Earnest Workers for girls.

The earliest record of an active Missionary Society in the Church was the organization of a women's Auxiliary which took place on December 9th, 1874. At this meeting officers, as follows, were elected,—President, Mrs. Richard R. Bryan; Vice-Presidents, Mrs. Wm. H. Woods and Mrs. H. S. Wharton; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. W. A. Orbison; Recording Secretary, Mrs. S. C. Welch; Treasurer, Miss Cornelia Weistling. Forty-three members were enrolled at the meeting. At the next meeting, held on December 14th, a Board of Managers was appointed, consisting of the following members,—Mrs. John P. Anderson, Mrs. W. McKnight Williamson, Mrs. Thomas C. Fisher, Mrs. Horatio G. Fisher, Mrs. William E. McMurtrie, Mrs. David Blair, Mrs. William Dorris, Mrs. John Scott, Mrs. George W. Zahnizer and Mrs. Brice X. Blair. A constitution was adopted giving the name as The Huntingdon Auxiliary of the Women's Foreign Missionary Society of the Presbyterian Church. "The object shall be to aid the General Society in sending to foreign fields and sustaining female missionaries, Bible readers and teachers, who shall labor among heathen women and children.

The list of members of the Auxiliary contain the following names,—

Mrs. J. P. Anderson
Mrs. C. H. Anderson
Miss Alice Anderson
Mrs. J. Simpson Africa
Mrs. G. Barton Armitage
Mrs. David Blair
Mrs. J. C. Blair
Miss Sallie Armitage
Miss Cora Blair
Miss Mary Blair
Miss Sadie Blair
Mrs. R. R. Bryan
Mrs. S. T. Brown
Miss Ellie Brown
Mrs. J. M. Bailey
Miss Mary Cochran
Miss Kate Cochran
Mrs. William Dorris
Miss Annie Dorris
Mrs. H. G. Fisher
Mrs. Thomas C. Fisher
Miss Belle Fisher

Mrs. Hennie Jackson
Mrs. Chalmers Jackson
Miss Lucy Johnston
Miss Ida Johnston
Mrs. Annie Lewis
Mrs. R. A. Miller
Mrs. Charles H. Miller
Mrs. J. K. McCahan
Mrs. Wm. E. McMurtrie
Miss Clara McMurtrie
Mrs. David McMurtrie
Miss Maggie McMurtrie
Mrs. Mary Neff
Miss Mollie Neff
Mrs. W. A. Orbison
Miss Ellie Orbison
Miss Mary Orbison
Miss Mamie Orbison
Miss Jennie Orbison
Mrs. Mary Proctor
Mrs. Frank Proctor
Mrs. John Read

Mrs. R. A. Stephens
Mrs. J. E. Smucker
Mrs. Samuel Steele
Mrs. W. H. Woods
Mrs. H. S. Wharton
Miss Nellie Wharton
Miss Annie Wharton
Mrs. S. C. Welch
Mrs. Rachel Williamson
Miss C. R. Weistling
Mrs. John Glazier
Mrs. J. R. Simpson
Mrs. John Scott
Miss Ellie Scott
Mrs. G. W. Zahnizer
Miss Mary Zahnizer
Married Ladies
Young Ladies
Children
Total Members

33
16
11
60

At this second meeting a committee was appointed to canvas the Congregation to secure additional members. This Committee included the following persons,—Mrs. John M. Bailey, Chairman, Mrs. Henrietta Jackson, Mrs. H. G. Fisher, Mrs. W. McK. Williamson, Miss Ellie Scott and Miss Belle Fisher. Within a few months the following members were added to the society.

Mrs. Collum
Miss Kate Cunningham
Miss Julia Dorris
Miss Mary Dorris
Mrs. Decker
Mrs. Helen M. Gage
Mrs. Hildebrand
Mrs. J. G. Isenberg

Miss Prudence Jackson
Mrs. Clara Lindsay
Miss Mary Miller
Mrs. Harriet Read
Mrs. William Reed
Miss Maggie Read
Mrs. David Rohm
Miss Mollie Rohm

Mrs. Skeese
Miss Annie Skeese
Miss Fanny Williamson
Mrs. S. G. White
Mrs. Kate Weistling

The first contribution of the new Society was for \$75.00 to be given to Miss Harshbarger, a new missionary leaving for China, to help supply her with a proper outfit. Miss Harshbarger was stationed at Ningpo, China, and for a number of years corresponded with the Auxiliary, which continued to help in supporting her work. At the meeting in May, 1875, an additional \$50 was presented to Miss Harshbarger to purchase an organ to take to her new field. Total receipts for the first year of the Auxiliary's existence was \$242.45.

Mrs. Wm. H. Woods and Mrs. W. A. Orbison were elected to attend the meeting at Lewistown on November 11th, 1875, the object of which meeting was to organize a Presbyterial Missionary Organization. At a meeting held in Philadelphia, April 27th, 1876 it was shown that Huntingdon Presbytery ranked first in point of interest and success.

On July 5, 1876, a committee of three, consisting of Mrs. Blair, Mrs. Woods and Mrs. Orbison was appointed to visit the churches at Shade Gap, Orbisonia and Shirleysburg, and another committee consisting of Mrs. H. G. Fisher, Mrs. R. R. Bryan and Mrs. H. S. Wharton to visit the church in Saxton and establish societies in these churches.

At this time meetings of the Society were held in the members' homes, and the balcony Bible Class room in the church.

Five years later, on June 25, 1879, a Womens Home Missionary Society was organized with Mrs. W. McKnight Williamson, President and Mrs. W. H. Woods, Secretary. While the two societies were separate organizations, with separate officers, they had practically the same membership and met together. While the work of the two societies continued to expand from year to year, there were times of depression and discouragement. One minute records the fact that at that meeting, the President Mrs. W. H. Woods, and Secretary, Mrs. H. G. Fisher were the only members present, but the program was carried out in its entirety.

As one group of devoted women came to the end of their allotted span of life others took up the work, which has been carried forward year by year for the sixty-five years of its existence. For many years Mrs. W. J. Thomas was President of the Women's Foreign Missionary Society or Auxiliary, and Mrs. E. S. Cremer was President of the Womens' National Missionary Society. A number of years ago the two societies were united into the Women's National and Foreign Missionary Society, with Mrs. R. P. Daubenspeck as President, and still continues its work under the new name. V-Pres. Mrs. E. S. Cremer, Sec., Mrs. C. A. Schoch, Treas., Mrs. R. Allison Miller.

Before the turn of the century a Young Women's Missionary Society was organized. Mrs. Freeman took a great interest in the work of this Society, which she was largely instrumental in organizing. After her death, as the name of the society took on an air of obsolescence, this organization took the name of the Henrietta W. Freeman Missionary Society, and continues today one of the strongest missionary organizations in Huntingdon Presbytery. Its contributions to Missions have been close to a thousand dollars a

year for many years. One feature of its work has been its donations of Hospital dressings and supplies to foreign fields, a large part of this work having been done under the supervision of Mrs. Thomas F. Bailey. There have been so many faithful workers and supporters of the work of this society and such a long list of devoted officers that the limits of this book prevent even listing them all.

At a later period another group of young women of the congregation was organized by Miss Mary C. Speer, and named the Westminster Mission Society. After her death in 1918 this name was changed to the Mary C. Speer Missionary Society and still continues its good work. Among others who sponsored the work of this group are Mrs. C. M. Taylor, Mrs. W. C. Wilson and Mrs. O. H. Irwin.

Mission Study Classes have been conducted at intervals over a long period of years, which accounts in large measure for the steady growth and continued interest in Missions which characterizes the life of this Congregation.

In addition to the Missionary work of the Congregation within its own organization a City Missionary Union, with members from all the denominations of the town was formed largely through the efforts of Miss Mary C. Speer and continues to stimulate missionary interest in all the local churches. This organization has brought to the Community each year eminent speakers and leaders with World wide views on the Missionary Enterprise, and, in this way, has kept the Community abreast of the times in World movements.

No doubt the Huntingdon Church's great interest in Missions, was stimulated by the fact that Dr. Robert E. Speer, one of the great Missionary leaders of the World, still looks upon this as his home church. Through all the years he has returned frequently to speak from its pulpit and has brought quickening messages, not only with Missions as his subject, but in true Gospel sermons, with world-wide experiences, such as few men have had, from which to draw his illustrations and lessons.

The first mention of Dr. Speer's name on the records of the Session is in a minute reading as follows,—

"Robert Elliott Speer, infant son of R. Milton and Martha McMurtrie Speer, baptized, November 6, 1869."

As a result of the Missionary spirit of the Congregation, one of its young girl members, Miss Edwina Cunningham went out in 1892, as a missionary to Ningpo, China, where she labored for forty-three years. She met another missionary on the field, and married Rev. Harrison King Wright. When the writer and wife visited China in 1926, Mrs. Wright came from Ningpo to Shanghai, over two hundred miles, and spent the period of our visit in showing us the sights, sounds and smells of that great cosmopolitan city of the Far East, as few people could have done. Understanding the languages of the people she was able to smooth out all sorts of difficulties. On Sunday we rode in rickshas to the American Church for the morning service. Returning to our hotel, along Bubbling Well Road, we visited the beautiful cemetery compound where Mrs. Wright's husband and her mother are buried. While walking through this beautiful, well-kept, quiet sanctuary of the departed, she talked of their long years of service together in China.

Asked, whether she thought all the expenditure of time, effort and money which had been expended on Missions was worth while, she replied, "Our life here for all these years is our only answer to that question".

After finishing her task in China, Mrs. Wright was returning to America to spend the balance of her days in well earned rest, with her friends and her son and family, when, as the boat neared the Pacific Coast, she became suddenly ill and in a few days passed away, May 9, 1935. She now lies in our own Riverview Cemetery, while her husband and mother sleep in Bubbling Well Cemetery, on the other side of the World, in the land of his adoption.

Miss Anna Fisher, another member of the Congregation, unable to fulfill her desire for service in a Foreign Mission field, supported her own missionary worker in China, Miss Eva Smawley, for seventeen years. Miss Smawley, is now a member of this church and continues to give unstintedly of her energy and powers here, still in the interest of Missions, and in the work of this church. Since Miss Smawley's return to America Miss Fisher has supported Glenn S. Frost, another Presbyterian Mission worker in Syria.

For more than forty years our Sabbath School has contributed annually to the support of three scholarships in the Presbyterian School at Sangli, India. This school is directed by Rev. John Goheen, whose people came from Rock Spring in the Spruce Creek Valley, and which numbers many workers in Foreign Fields.

At the present time this Congregation contributes to the support of Miss Myrtle Hinkhouse, M. D., a medical missionary in China, and to Rev. Paul McCandless & wife, Missionaries in Columbia, South America.

During the many years of the Presbyterian Missionary Society, the Huntingdon Congregation has numbered many officers in that organization. At the present time Mrs. E. E. Sanford is President, which office she has ably filled for a number of years. At one time Miss Mary C. Speer was Treasurer of the State or Synodical Society.



PRO PATRIA

During the great war the following persons, then members of this Congregation were in active service of their country.

Howard C. Wallace	Fay E. Snyder
Bernard B. Wallace	Frank H. Shontz
Charles G. Brown, Jr.	Alvin W. Rudy
William M. Hall Brown	J. Murray Africa, Jr.
James Fink	Charles McKnight Africa
William Clyde Decker	Buell R. Archey
Thomas Read,	Clarence P. Dick
J. Palmer Maclay	William Clair Hall
Chester B. Gillam	David McCahan
Richard C. Greenland	George J. Read
Robert Malcolm Laird	Richard M. Simpson
Harold E. Taylor	Robert Blair Stewart
Franklin F. Bollinger	Charles Arthur Taylor
Mrs. Helen L. Gage	Harry McCahan Rex
Ordiorne Sears	David C. Bratton
Alton L. Gracey	Paul Herncane
Guy Elliott Graffius	John Leslie Laird
Cloyd B. Wilson	Shirley Sears
Col. George Williamson	Joseph Blair Woods
Donald Rung	Amos Peter Brown
Blair A. McIlroy	George Donald Fisher
John P. Forbes	Lida K. Womer
Edgar F. Trimble	Jane L. McIntyre
Mary Elizabeth Reed	Lyda McAfee
J. Donald McCarthy	Annie C. Graffius
Robert Dorsey Rung	Retta F. Jackson
Harry W. Strickler	

CHAPTER XI

CONCLUSION

In the foregoing pages we have tried to show in a brief way, some of the interesting experiences, trials and joys, discouragements and successes which have been the lot of the Huntingdon Prešbyterian Congregation during the one hundred and fifty years since its founding. We have tried to give evidence of the steadfastness of purpose, the determination to persevere in the face of great obstacles, but, above all the faithful reliance of this people in the goodness, and help of Almighty God, which enabled them to continue the life and work of the organization no matter what the obstacles encountered.

From the earliest days of the community, before there were enough persons to support a church, the gospel had been preached by travelling missionaries. As soon as there were enough people to support a pastor, long before they could afford a meeting house of their own, the Congregation was organized, and from that time to the present, ever moved forward to larger fields. From 1789 to 1938, only eight pastors have served the Congregation, Rev. John Peters, the present pastor being the ninth.

Many times the Congregation was faced with obstacles which, for the time seemed unurnountable, but in every instance a solution was reached. Since 1825 only three houses of worship have been built. The present church building, the one most of us know, was completed in 1873, since which time it has been remodelled a number of times at great expense, but each time was better and more suited to the work of the Church.

At least three times this beautiful building was threatened with destruction by fire and lightning, but seemingly miraculously it was spared. How many other times it was threatened in some way, but also spared we do not know. The fierce wintry blasts and hot summer sun of more than seventy years have beat upon its walls and roof, but to no avail. God has been pleased to spare it to his people.

With all these rich experiences, and the boundless blessings, the priceless heritage of lives of men and women given in its service, is it to be wondered at that our people love and cherish every bit of historical knowledge we have concerning its life and the work of the past.

Looking forward, we earnestly hope for a continuance of the abiding love and goodness of God, which has made its past experiences possible; and for a continued devotion to its work in the present and in the future by a united, growing Congregation.



CHAPTER XII CHURCH DIRECTORY

1939

MINISTER

John Thompson Peters, 507 Washington St.

Telephone 166-R

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Francis W. Baldwin, Director of Music

Miss Margaretta Robb, Organist

THE ELDERS

Meetings First Tuesday of Each Month

S. C. Postlethwaite
Wm. R. Banks
C. E. Horton
Forrest Jackson

W. B. Simpson
T. S. Bratton
R. M. Newcombe
R. D. Royer, Clerk of Session

C. H. Swigart, Treasurer
Wm. Liebig
W. J. Sherrard
R. M. Simpson

THE TRUSTEES

Meetings First Thursday of Each Month

F. Blair Isenberg, President
George B. Mark
C. H. Jackson

John Smucker

I. Wallace Fleck
C. B. Miller
F. T. Ransburg

Charles L. Reed, Treasurer of Congregation

Miss Margaretta Robb, Financial Secretary

C. H. Swigart, Treasurer of Benevolence

THE CHURCH SCHOOL

Hon. Richard M. Simpson, Supt.
Gerald Bange, Secretary
Leroy Moyer, Asst. Secretary
Miss Mary Hooper, Supt. Sr. Y. P. Dept.
Mrs. James Ulsh, Supt. Intermediate Dept.
Mrs. C. P. Dick, Supt. Junior Dept.

Chas. E. Horton, Treasurer
C. H. Jackson, Asst. Supt.
Jas. Thompson, Asst. Supt.
Miss Lucy Read, Supt. Primary Dept.
Mrs. Frank Greenleaf, Supt. of Cradle Roll
Mrs. Cyrus Schoch, Supt. of Home Dept.

HEAD USHER
Chas. M. Snyder

DEACON'S FUND
Miss Anna Fisher, Treas.

LADIES AID SOCIETY

Miss Anna Fisher, President

Mrs. R. A. Miller, Treasurer

Mrs. C. E. Hooper, Secretary

WOMAN'S NATIONAL AND FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY

Mrs. R. P. Daubenspeck, President
Mrs. E. S. Cremer, Vice President

Mrs. R. A. Miller, Treasurer
Mrs. Cyrus Schoch, Secretary

HENRIETTA FREEMAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY

Mrs. Alvin Waite, President
Mrs. C. E. Hooper, Vice President
Miss Mary Tyhurst, Treasurer

Mrs. Howard Henderson, Vice President
Mrs. A. J. McCahan, Secretary, deceased
Miss Eva J. Smawley, elected

MARY C. SPEER MISSIONARY SOCIETY

Mrs. Frank Wagner, President
Mrs. C. Herbert Jackson, Vice President

Mrs. Lester Refford, Secretary
Mrs. Harry D. Moser, Treasurer

YOUNG PEOPLE'S ADVISOR

Mary Hooper

SENIOR YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETY

Flores Skinner, President
Fred. Postlethwaite, Vice President

Mary K. Wagner, Secretary
Chauncey Showalter, Treasurer

INTERMEDIATE YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETY

James Skinner }
James Ulsh } Presidents

Margaret Ransburg, Vice President
Louden Miller, Secretary

William Sullivan, Treasurer

CHURCH COUNCIL OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

S. C. Postlethwaite
Mrs. W. J. Sherrard, President
C. H. Jackson, Vice President
Marshall Showalter, Secretary

Meetings on Call
C. E. Horton
Wm. R. Banks
Mary E. Hooper
Mrs. Jas. F. Ulsh

Miss Lucy Read
George Porter
R. M. Simpson (Ex. Officio)
John T. Peters (Ex. Officio)

YOUNG PEOPLE'S FELLOWSHIP GROUP

Frank Evans, President
Mrs. George Porter, Vice President

Miss Kathryn Hooper, Secretary
Orris Krepps, Treasurer

DIRECTOR EVERY MEMBER CANVASS

W. J. Sherrard

FLOWER COMMITTEE

Mrs. Wallace Geissinger

Mrs. John Smucker

SEXTON

Merle Gallagher, McConnellstown Road

ENDOWMENT FUND

The Endowment Fund now amounts to \$11,984.31
This fund includes individual gifts, also memorials to the following persons.

MEMORIALS

WILLIAM REED
MISS MINNIE McMURTRIE
SAMUEL T. AND SARAH J. BROWN
GEORGE F. AND HELEN M. GAGE
JUDGE JOHN M. AND LETITIA FISHER BAILEY
WILLIAM AND JULIA MILES DORRIS
MRS. CATHERINE WILLOUGHBY
MRS. ELLEN GLOVER REED
FRANK CREMER
MRS. LUCRETIA A. ISENBERG
W. A. MAGUIRE
ALEXANDER ELLIOTT
MRS. ELSIE JOSEPHINE BARE
MRS. J. WILSON GREENLAND
JAMES M. GREENE
MRS. MARGARET FOLEY FISHER
COLONEL JOHN S. BARE
MRS. NANNIE BLAIR ANDERSON
CLYDE E. HOOPER
THEODORE H. AND MARGARETTA D. CREMER
MISS MARY H. CREMER
MRS. J. C. BLAIR

E. M. C. AFRICA MEMORIAL TRUST FUND \$5,000.00

C. M. TAYLOR BEQUEST \$1,000.00

LIVING DONORS TO THE ENDOWMENT FUND

THOMAS FISHER
MISS MARY McM. GWIN
MISS ANNA FISHER
MRS. E. M. GREENE

LIST OF MEMBERS PRESBYTERIAN CONGREGATION

1939

Anderson, Alexander A.
Armitage, Margaret F.
Africa, Mrs. Eleanor McK.
Africa, James Murray, Jr.
Africa, Charles McKnight
Adams, John Wesley
Adams, Mrs. John Wesley
Africa, Hunter
Appleby, Thomas
Archey, Buell R.
Appleby, Mrs. Verna

Bailey, Thomas Fisher
Boggs, Mrs. Clara F.
Bengtsson, Mrs. Karl O.
Banks, Mrs. Wm. R.
Beaver, Mrs. George D.
Bailey, Mrs. Thomas F.
Barnes, Kate F.
Barr, Maggie
Bratton, Thaddeus S.
Bayer, Mrs. Fred B.
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Dean, Mrs. Rhoda Schoch
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Dell, Daniel E.
Dell, Patricia Ann
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Dick, Patricia Ann
Dempsey, Marvin
Dempsey, Marshall E.
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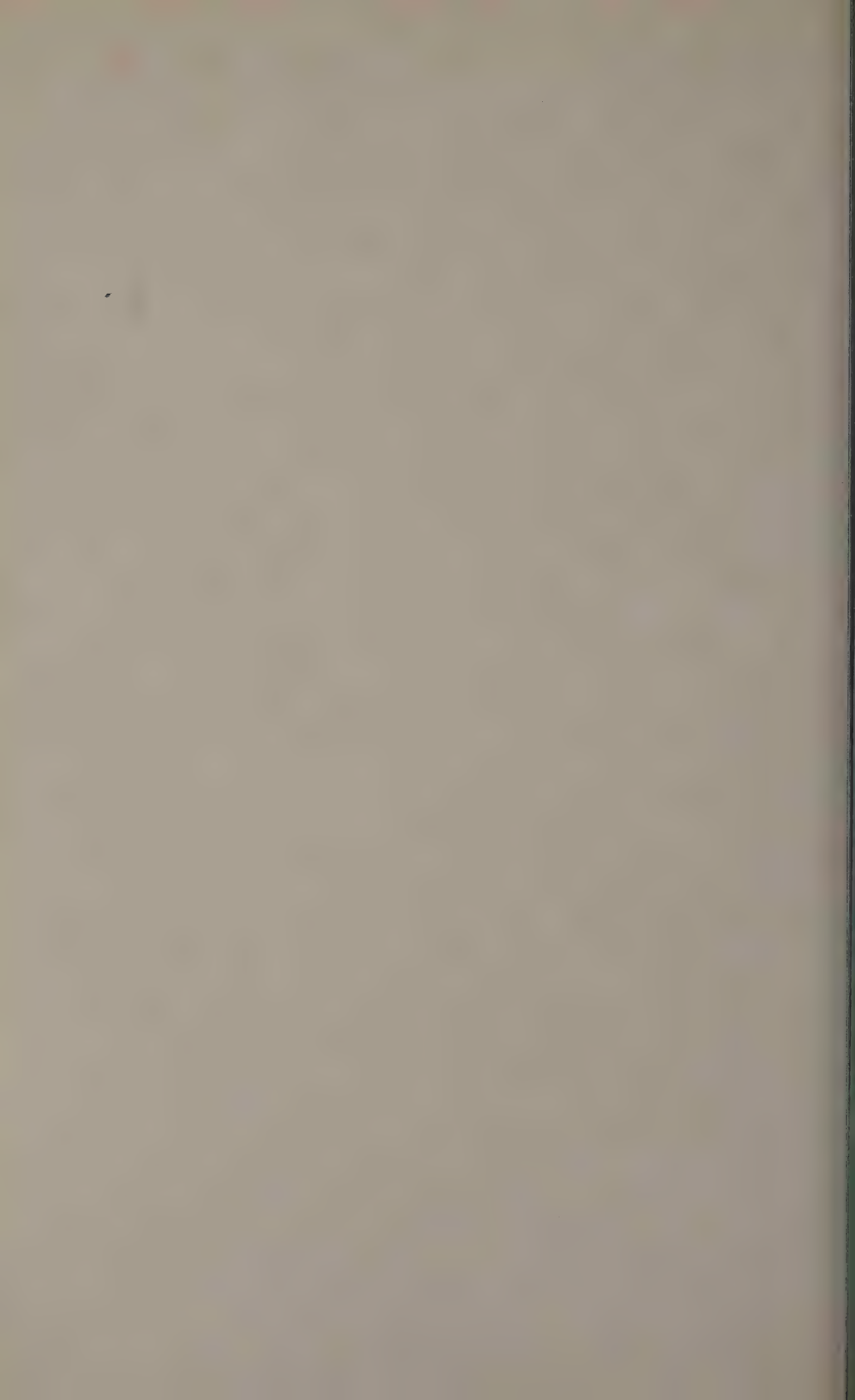
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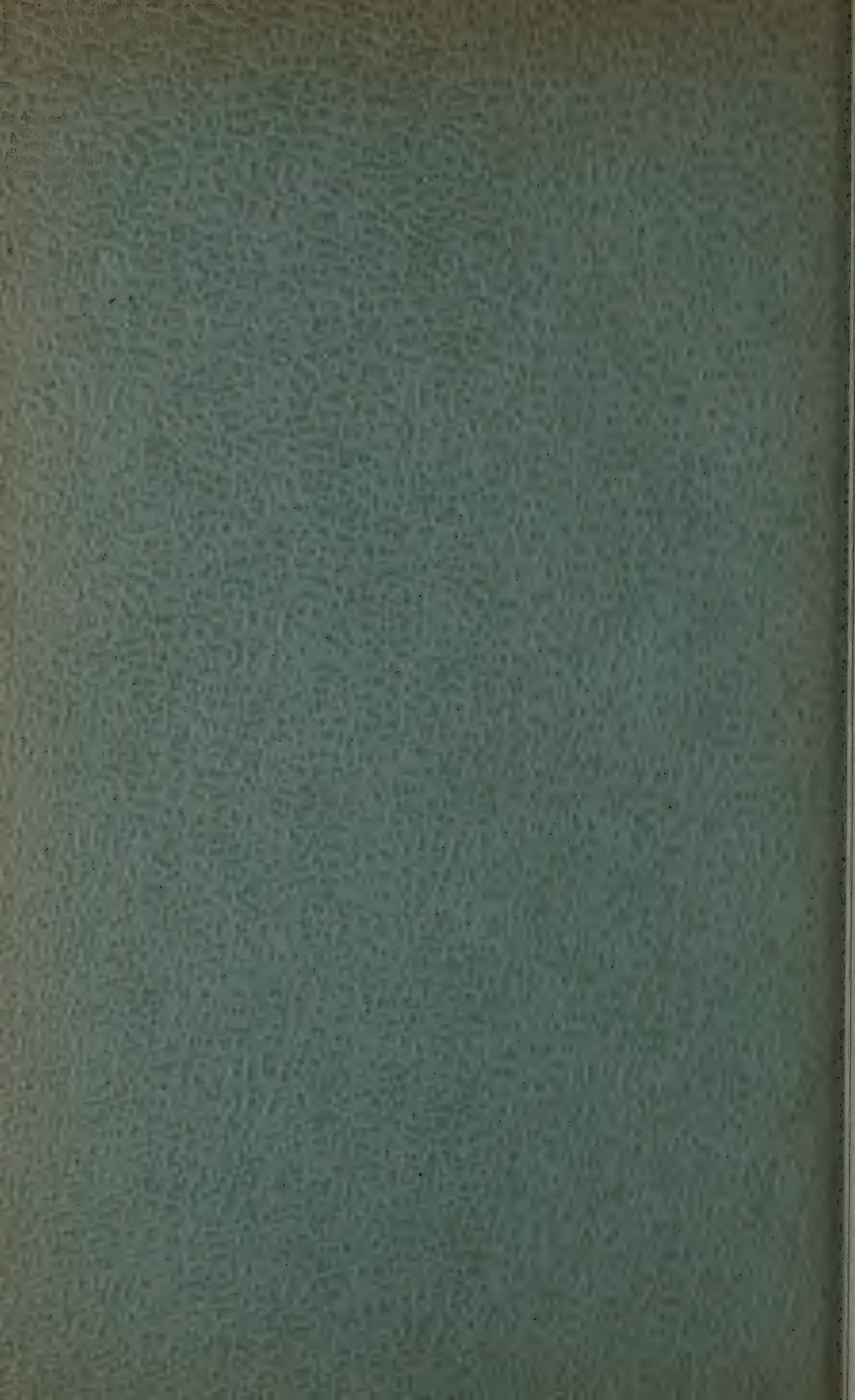
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